

United States Department of State

Sa 8/986



May 1986

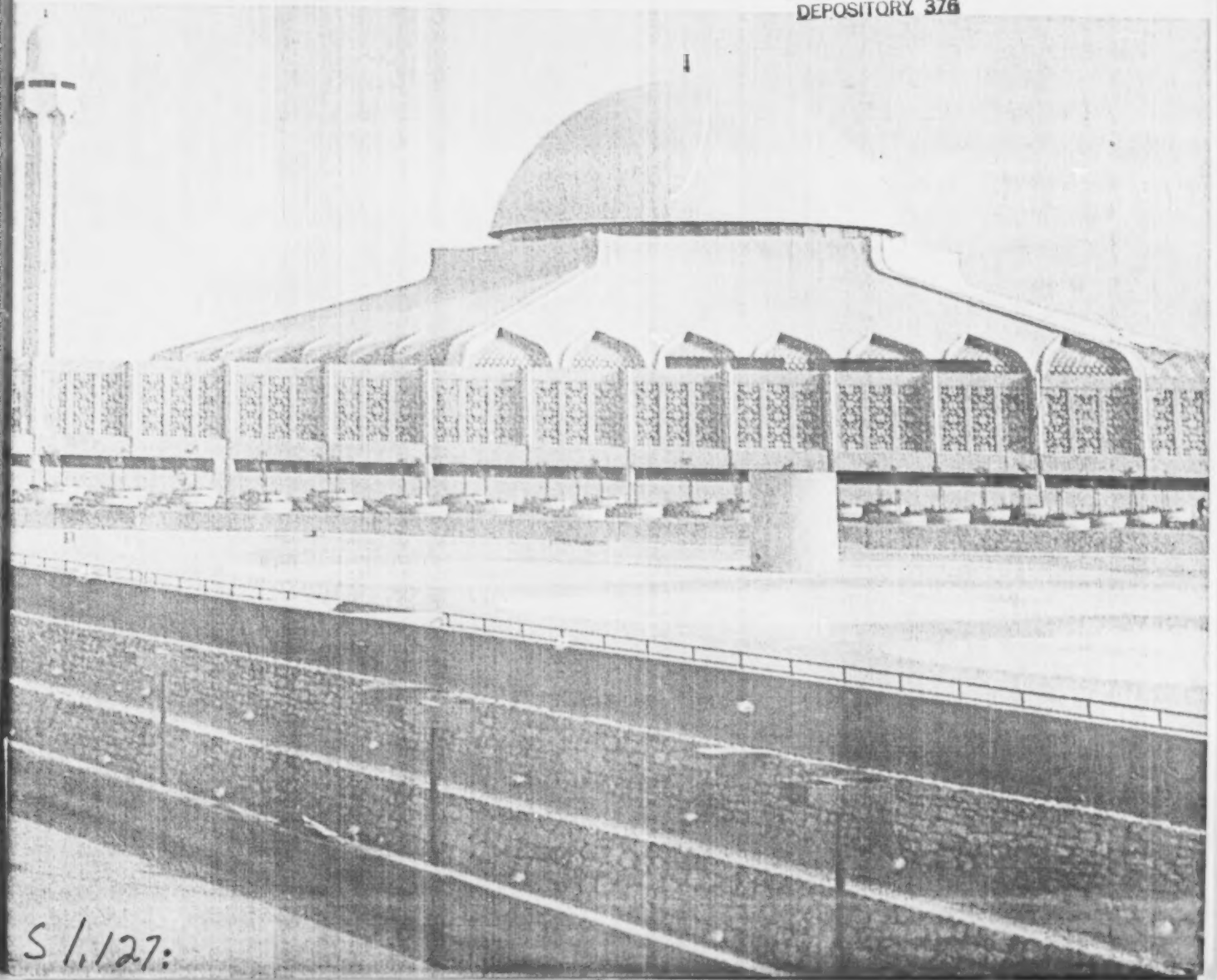
Saudi Arabia

Post Report

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

JUL 18 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBLS.
DEPOSITORY 376



S 1.127:



Dhahran International Hotel.

Preface

Saudi Arabia, a country of romance and legend, awakens memories from *The Arabian Nights* or perhaps evokes scenes from some dimly remembered Hollywood epic. It has, indeed, a colorful past, an exciting present, and a bright future.

Saudi Arabia is a large country, about one-fourth the size of the U.S., comprised mostly of gravel or sand desert. Water from deep wells makes farming possible in some areas. Saudi Arabia has 25% of the earth's proven oil resources and is the world's largest oil exporter. Islam, the only religion practiced in Saudi Arabia, plays a dominant part in the country's history and influences much of daily life. Islamic legal traditions take precedence over all other government regulations.

For thousands of years Arabs have roamed the desert tending their herds and flocks, tilling the

soil where water was more plentiful, and trading goods brought by camel caravan. But the unified nation of Saudi Arabia has been in existence for only 53 years. Oil income has enabled the country to modernize rapidly, but many of its customs and traditions still play an important role in day-to-day business transactions. Much is new in this ancient land: industries, roads, high-rise office buildings, communication networks, and huge housing complexes. The landscape is one of contrast—the visitor to Saudi Arabia will be rewarded with a visually enriching experience—a lovely blending of the old and new.

Saudis are a cultivated people with an ancient and glorious heritage. If you adapt to their ways, slow down, and follow their customs, you will find that living in Saudi Arabia is a rich experience whether assigned to the Embassy in Riyadh, or the Consulates General in Jeddah or Dhahran.

This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

Table of Contents

1	The Host Country
1	Area, Geography, and Climate
2	Population
3	Public Institutions
3	Commerce and Industry
4	Transportation
5	Communications
7	Health and Medicine
7	Employment for Spouses and Dependents
9	American Embassy
9	Riyadh
9	The Post and Its Administration
10	Housing
10	Food
10	Clothing
11	Supplies and Services
11	Religious Activities
11	Education
12	Recreation and Social Life
13	Official Functions
15	Consulate General (Jeddah)
23	Consulate General (Dhahran)
27	Notes For Travelers
27	Getting to the Post
27	Customs, Duties, and Passage
27	Firearms and Ammunition
28	Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures
28	Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property
28	Recommended Reading
28	Local Holidays

Cover: First-time visitors to Riyadh will long remember this beautiful Mosque that dominates the skyline of King Khaled International Airport.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 9009
Foreign Affairs Information Management Center
Publishing Services Division

Revised May 1986

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents
U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 20402

The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Saudi Arabia lies in the area known as the Middle East, the meeting place of the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe. It occupies much of the Arabian Peninsula and has a land area of about 830,000 square miles. The vast uninhabited Empty Quarter, al-Rub' al-Khali, is about the size of Texas and is the largest single body of sand in the world. The principal cultivated areas are in the Asir highlands in the Southwestern Province and in the Hasa Eastern Province along the Arabian Gulf.

The country has five provinces, each headed by a Governor or Emir: the Hijaz, the Asir, the Nejd, the Al-Hasa, and the Northern Province. The topography varies from vast stretches of sand to rugged mountain ranges. From the Gulf of Aqaba south to Yemen lies the Tihama, a dry, narrow, coastal plain bordering the Red Sea. East of the plain, a narrow chain of mountains rises to 9,000 feet east of Jeddah. This entire region, traditionally called the Hijaz, is now known as the Western Region.

The same mountain chain rises to 12,000 feet and becomes more rugged in the south near Yemen. This portion, known as the Asir, meaning rugged, has more rainfall than any other part of the country. Its dense population, many villages, terraced farms, and green forests are more reminiscent of Africa than the "Desert Kingdom."

The Nejd, the heartland of Saudi Arabia, is the ancestral home of the Al Sa'ud, the country's ruling family. Here, the heaviest concentration of Bedouins still lead their flocks of sheep, goats, and camels across the arid land in search of pastures. But the Bedouin are modernizing and water trucks are now common sights around their

tent encampments. The Saudi Government has an aggressive program aimed at settling the Bedu so that modern education and health care can be established for them.

The Eastern Province (Al-Hasa), largely desert, contains most of the nation's oil fields. Besides oil, two large oases, Qatif and Hofuf, support a substantial agricultural

Average Temperatures and Annual Rainfall

	Mean Temp.	Avg. Daily Max. Temp.	Avg. Daily Min. Temp.	Relative Humidity	Precip.
Riyadh					
January	63	88	28	57	0.43
February	68	95	34	57	0.22
March	75	103	32	56	1.08
April	85	111	50	48	1.07
May	92.5	113	59	28	0.25
June	97.5	122	67	18	0
July	101	125	64	17	0.05
August	101	122	68	17	0
September	97.5	115	61	18	0
October	86.5	110	48	29	0.03
November	74.5	98	36	44	0.06
December	68	90	31	48	0.52
Jeddah					
January	74	92	55	57	0
February	75	93	59	59	0
March	78	100	61	62	0.07
April	82	104	62	57	0
May	85	104	66	57	0
June	87	111	70	58	0
July	90	107	75	54	0
August	90	105	75	61	0
September	88	105	73	68	0
October	84	106	64	68	0
November	81	96	65	63	1.3
December	76	91	59	62	0
Annual	82	101	65	60	0.11
Years	6	6	6	6	6
Dhahran					
January	60	69	52	76	0.66
February	63	71	54	75	0.48
March	69	78	59	72	0.48
April	78	88	69	68	0.41
May	88	99	77	63	0.07
June	94	107	82	60	0
July	97	108	85	62	0
August	96	108	85	67	0
September	92	104	80	68	0
October	84	95	73	70	0
November	74	84	65	71	0.36
December	64	73	55	73	0.67
Annual	80	90	70	69	3.00
Years	27	27	27	17	27

population. Most activity and population are centered around the market city of Al-Khobar; Dhahran, site of the Aramco complex; and the busy port of Dammam.

Riyadh's climate is marked by a greater contrast in winter-summer temperatures than elsewhere in the kingdom. Summers are hot, with average city temperatures above 100°F. Riyadh has practically no humidity, making summers especially dry and dusty. Dust, the single most disagreeable factor of Riyadh's climate both for house-keeping and for allergy sufferers, is a year-round problem. Annual rainfall averages 2-4 inches, usually concentrated in a few torrential rainfalls in early spring. Winters produce moderate daytime temperatures from November through February. Evenings are cool enough to require residential heating.

Jeddah, the commercial center, has a tropical climate—mild in winter and hot in summer. Summer lasts 8-10 months with temperatures moderating in November. Winter is comparable to the spring and summer weather of resorts on the Mediterranean Sea. In summer, when interior desert temperatures can be torrid (130°F in the shade), Jeddah is more pleasant and moderate. Summertime shade temperature is normally in the high 90's or low 100's, and at sunset a sea breeze often brings relief. Except on the few occasions when it rains, the sun shines every day.

Dhahran's climate is a desert one, with summer lasting from April through October. July and August are hot with an average maximum shade temperature of 110°F and "in sun" temperatures of up to 150°F. December to April is cooler and pleasant with indoor heating required at times, especially in areas north of Dhahran.

Rainfall in both Jeddah and Dhahran is sparse; 3 to 4 inches a year is normal. Rainfall is concentrated in a few heavy showers, usually during November and February.

The most disagreeable feature of summers in Jeddah and Dhahran is high humidity—60%-90% most of the time. Since high humidity

causes mildew, care must be taken to store items in air-conditioned areas.

Throughout Saudi Arabia, winds blow sand and dust into houses and cars, marring finishes and causing damage to unprotected equipment. Occasionally, full-blown sandstorms occur, lasting from 1 to 4 days.

Insect pests are not much of a problem. Flies can be bothersome, particularly during cooler weather. Few mosquitoes appear. Roaches, ants, and termites invade the home, but modern insecticides control them. Snakes are seldom seen but, along with scorpions, do exist.

Population

Saudi Arabia has a population of about 7 million including many temporary expatriate workers. The nomadic Bedouin population has decreased dramatically over the last 15 years, and today most Saudis live in cities and towns.

Arabic is spoken, with regional variations in dialect. English is acknowledged as a second language and is taught in secondary schools. In urban areas and among the Saudi elite, English is understood and widely used in conversation with foreigners. Most people who deal with the Embassy and Consulates General have some knowledge of English, and many shopkeepers understand a few useful words and expressions. Despite the government's emphasis on English, including televised instructions, many older people and many policemen or taxi drivers do not speak it. Arabic is, by Royal Decree, the official language of business.

Knowledge of Arabic is helpful but not necessary in daily transactions or in dealing with domestic help. Depending on post funding, Arabic instruction is available for Mission employees and adult dependents.

Islam is the official religion and the government considers it a sacred duty to safeguard the two greatest shrines of Islam, the holy cities of Makkah and Medina. Makkah, a city of about 500,000, joins Jeddah and Riyadh as one of the country's largest cities.

Two Islamic religious observances during the year change the pace of daily life. Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar year, is a period when Muslims neither eat nor drink from sunrise to sunset. At sunset each day, fasting ends and Muslim families gather to exchange gifts and greetings.

The other religious period is the Hajj (major pilgrimage). Every Muslim who can bear the expense has a duty to make one Hajj during his or her lifetime. Each year, as the holy days of Hajj approach, several million Muslims from other nations arrive in Jeddah by air, sea, and land en route to Makkah and the Plain of Arafat where the religious rites take place. They are joined by Saudis and expatriate Muslims already within the kingdom to make the Hajj the largest congregation of humanity at one time and place in the world. It is during the Hajj that the feast of the sacrifice (Id al-Adha) is celebrated.

The Great Mosque of Makkah, with the cubed, black-draped Kaaba at its open-air center, is the major focal point of Islam. It is the Kaaba toward which all Muslims pray. Travel by non-Muslims into the cities of Makkah and Medinah is forbidden.

Saudi Arabia's customs are undergoing many changes. But living in Saudi Arabia is not easy if you insist on running your life and household according to American standards. Flexibility and patience will help you adapt, but remember, local customs may take precedence over your diplomatic status.

Many social events are strictly for men and among more conservative Saudi men, female family members are not mentioned in conversation. The unveiled Arab woman still is the exception. An Arab woman in Western dress may have a thin, black veil; the more traditional costume is the "abayah" which covers the wearer from head to toe.

Americans in Saudi Arabia should respect traditions and customs regarding women's role in society and take care not to offend

Saudi sensitivities. Women should wear nonrevealing loose clothes; blouses covering below the elbow and skirts covering below the knee are the prudent dress for public places. (For further details see *Clothing—Riyadh*.)

Public Institutions

The original area of Saudi Arabia ruled by the Al-Saud was the Nejd, the central and, to this day, more tribal part of Saudi Arabia. During the first 30 years of the 20th century the regions of the Hijaz, Asir, and the oil-rich Eastern Province were brought under Saudi rule. Today, Saudi Arabia is a traditional Islamic monarchy, ruled by a King.

The Council of Ministers advises the King, examines proposed legislation, and makes recommendations to him. It is composed of the heads of ministries, separate agencies, and other advisers appointed by the King, who is also Prime Minister. The Council performs

executive and legislative functions. Once it makes a recommendation and a course of action is decided, the King turns the decision into law by issuing a Royal Decree.

Saudi Arabia's legal system, the "Sharia," is the body of Islamic jurisprudence derived from the Koran and traditions of the Prophet. It governs both civil and criminal law. Interpretations of the law are made by the Ulema, men learned in traditional jurisprudence. In cases not covered by the Sharia, administrative decisions are made by civil officials. Local commercial councils issue decisions based on customary commercial law or practice. Every citizen has the right to have grievances heard by the King.

Saudi Arabia is divided into 14 administrative provinces including Mekkah, Medina, Riyadh, the Eastern Province, Hail, and the Northern Frontiers. The governors or emirs of these subdivisions report to the Minister of Interior and often directly to the King. Lesser emirs report to the Interior Ministry or

provincial governor. Some communities, including Jeddah, have municipal councils whose members are appointed by the Ministry of Municipal and Village Affairs.

Commerce and Industry

Saudi Arabia's first producing oil well was completed in 1938, but full-scale commercial production did not begin until after World War II. Today, Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter. Most oil is shipped in tankers through the Arabian Gulf or through the transArabian pipeline to the Red Sea. The primary company developing the country's oil resources is the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco), now a wholly owned Saudi entity. Marketing the Saudi share of oil is handled by the government



Nasriyah Gate is the gateway to the Palace complex built by King Saud in 1956.

corporation, PETROMIN. Earnings from oil production account for over 85% of total government revenues and about two-thirds of total gross domestic product.

Although income from the Hajj, once the mainstay of the government, continues to grow, services provided to pilgrims now cost more than the income generated. The pilgrimage is still a major stimulus to economic activity in the Hijaz Province.

Saudi Arabia has no labor unions, but Saudi labor laws provide for worker protection. The supply of skilled Saudi workers is increasing due to improved technical education and training, but still remains in short supply.

Most manual labor is performed by Yemenis, Somalis, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Koreans, Egyptians, and Pakistanis. Middle- and upper-level technical and professional personnel, especially in commerce and construction, include Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, and Jordanians as well as skilled Koreans, Filipinos, Pakistanis, and Egyptians.

The government is rapidly developing new industries related to petroleum such as paper products, glass products, paints, fertilizer, and solar energy. Despite increased industrial and agricultural production, Saudi Arabia still relies heavily on imports. Although port and shipping facilities are no longer a problem, custom problems still limit flow of imported goods.

The U.S. is Saudi Arabia's leading trade partner, although Europe and Asia are increasingly tough competitors. Major U.S. exports are aircraft, buses, machinery and equipment, parts for machinery and equipment, automobiles, iron structures, rice, cranes, and hoists.

Transportation

Automobiles

A personal car is a great convenience and a must for all male employees. Diplomatic personnel may import a car duty free; this duty-free privilege is extended to nondiplomatic personnel during their first 6 months at post. Saudi

law prohibits women from driving cars, but they may own and import automobiles.

Poor road conditions due to constant construction, high humidity, scorching sun, and sandstorms cause rapid deterioration to new or luxurious cars. Hazardous driving conditions and the necessity of air-conditioning make larger 6- or 8-cylinder engines more practical. Nonplastic seat covers, factory-installed air-conditioning, heavy-duty springs and shock absorbers, six-ply tires or steel-belted radials, and an extra-capacity radiator are useful extras.

For camping and off-the-road trips, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended. Smaller cars such as Datsuns, Hondas, Toyotas, and Mazdas are available in Saudi Arabia at reasonable prices. Used cars are bought and sold at fair prices. The Consulates General in Jeddah and Dhahran have auto mechanics on staff who can be hired to service personal cars during off-duty hours. No such service is available in Riyadh. Fuel is available for diesel-powered vehicles, but the vehicle cannot be registered except by a Saudi or someone with a business license.

No pickup trucks or certain American and British cars may be imported, so newly assigned personnel should contact the administrative officer at post before shipping an automobile. The Ambassador, DCM, and consuls general are assigned vehicles, so individuals assigned to these positions need not ship a personal car. Male personnel assigned to all agencies must ship or obtain privately owned vehicles for personal use.

A Saudi drivers license is required. It costs about \$135 and takes about 1 month to obtain. A valid American or international drivers license is acceptable in the interim and would be useful to have upon arrival at post. Bring a supply of passport-size photos of all family members for various identification cards, licenses, etc.

Since women are forbidden to drive, the Embassy and Consulates General provide transportation to help personnel with their shopping and other necessary household duties. However, official use takes priority and vehicles may not always be available when requested. School transportation is provided for Embassy and Jeddah Consulate General children. Dhahran children walk to school.

The Saudi Government has no auto insurance requirements. However, since the principal officer is responsible for every employee, each car owner must take out third-party liability insurance, which can be bought locally at reasonable prices.

Use of government-owned vehicles for recreational purposes (charged at 20¢ a mile) is limited. This service, pending vehicle availability, is not a substitute for a personal car.

Local

Taxis and buses are the predominant form of public transportation in Saudi Arabia. Fare meters have recently been introduced which may eliminate the previous need to negotiate prices before entering the cab. Except in an emergency, a woman, alone, should not hire a taxi.

A national bus company, the Saudi Arabian Public Transportation Company (SAPTCO) operates adequate and frequent service within major cities but rarely is used by Mission personnel. These buses have separate compartments for women, and the bus stops are also segregated. Local fare is SR 2 per trip, whatever the length of the journey.

Regional

Air transportation is the principal method used by people coming to Saudi Arabia. Major carriers are Saudia (the national airline), Pan Am, Swissair, Air France, Lufthansa, and most other European and Middle East airlines. Direct flights are available to and from most major European cities. Pan Am has nonstop, direct flights daily

between New York City and Dhahran; Saudia between New York City and Jeddah. Only Saudia is permitted to make domestic flights. Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran are linked by a 24-city airline network.

More than 5,000 miles of paved roads exist in Saudi Arabia. One paved road runs north from Jeddah through Medina and Tabuk to the Jordanian border; another runs to Riyadh; a third to Asir. Internal road development is continual, and large wide modern highways are the result. Riyadh is a 12-hour drive from Jeddah. Scattered service stations en route provide gasoline and repair service. These are not, however, the Western equivalent of rest stops. Hotels and restaurants are conveniently located along the way.

One railroad operates between Dammam on the Arabian Gulf and Riyadh. The trip averages 4-5 hours with two stops en route. The scenery is an excellent example of the country's general terrain. One-way fares for the two classes of service offered range from SR 20-30. Private, air-conditioned compartments (with beds and seats) are available at about SR 150 for a group of up to five people.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

All government housing has telephones. Billings are made on a usage basis, and bills must be paid promptly to avoid termination of service.

General phone directories are inadequate and out-of-date. Telephone service between Riyadh, Taif, Dhahran, Jeddah and other major cities in Saudi Arabia is good. Direct and long-distance dialing is available.

You can make calls to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia by satellite for \$12 for 3 minutes. Connections are excellent, but it is much cheaper to have friends and relatives call you from the U.S.

Aramco has a telegraph service. It is possible to send commercial telegrams from Saudi Arabia, and

telex service is available at the Embassy and Consulates General in Jeddah and Dhahran. The telex number for the Consulate General in Jeddah is 405175 USCON SJ; the number for Embassy Riyadh is 201363 USRIAD SJ; and the number for the Consulate General in Dhahran is 601925 AMCON SJ.

Mail and Pouch

APO privileges are extended to all personnel assigned to Saudi Arabia. Letters and packages sent by APO to and from the U.S. take 7 to 10 days. Saudi customs officials inspect packages sent through APO, so any material likely to be censored by authorities should not be sent.

APO addresses are:

(For Riyadh) Your Name
American Embassy
APO New York 09038-0001

(For Jeddah) Your Name
AmConGen
APO New York 09697

(For Dhahran) Your Name
AmConGen
APO New York 09616

International mail can be used, but service is slower especially during the Hajj period, and mail is subject to censorship. Addresses for international mail are:

(For Riyadh) Your Name
American Embassy
P.O. Box 9041
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
11413

(For Jeddah) Your Name
American Consulate
General
P.O. Box 149
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
21411

(For Dhahran) Your Name
American Consulate
General
P.O. Box 81
Dhahran International Airport
Saudi Arabia

The Department's pouch facilities may be used to mail prescription medicines, eyeglasses, and other health items. Depart-

ment of State pouch address for Riyadh, Jeddah, or Dhahran is:

(Employee Name)
(Post)
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Packaging/Wrapping—Proper packaging/wrapping will help ensure that packages arrive unbroken and on time. Excelsior, polystyrene, and shredded newspaper make good cushioning material and should be used when mailing breakable items. Wrap/seal your package well to prevent wrapper being torn loose. **Registered items must be sealed with paper (not masking) tape and all flaps completely sealed.**

Weight/size restrictions—Priority/Space Available Mail (SAM) parcels cannot exceed 70 pounds in weight and 100 inches in length and girth combined. Parcel Air Lift (PAL) parcels cannot exceed 30 pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Mailing options—Priority mail moves by air all the way to destination and is the most expeditious means of shipment; PAL moves by air to the major mail terminal closest to final destination for an additional fee of 30¢ to \$1.20, depending on weight; SAM moves by air to destination on a space-available basis.

Customs requirements—All parcels, including envelopes containing merchandise, must have a customs form attached. Specific contents and dollar value must be entered on the form and must be signed.

Insurance—\$400 is the maximum insurance for each package. Contents must be packed to avoid breakage. Remember, if it rattles it cannot be insured.

Radio and TV

In Riyadh and Jeddah, the English service of the Saudi radio system broadcasts news, music, features, and talk shows 6 hours daily. In Dhahran, the Saudi radio service does not have an English service but Aramco's four FM stereo stations feature country music, easy listening, classical, and pop music, as well as Associated Press news

summaries. Neighboring Bahrain has English service on FM, offering 14 hours daily of music, news, and features.

Shortwave reception is not always good but VOA and Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) provide music, news, sports, commentary, and features. VOA broadcasts 11 hours daily in English to the Middle East, and BBC can also be received.

The Saudi TV network telecasts on a European standard, SECAM. An American-standard TV cannot receive the Saudi signal but multi-system TV's are available at the PX and on the local market. Saudi TV operates two channels—one in Arabic and one in English. The English channel shows English-language cartoons and some American and British shows. All programs are censored and because of the country's strict moral standards, few current TV shows or movies are shown.

Dhahran has access to the Aramco TV system which uses the PAL European system and American-standard TV's cannot receive it. In addition to American movies, serials, and shows, Aramco TV carries a delayed version of the Saudi TV English newscast. Bahrain TV operates an all-English channel which can be clearly received year round in Dhahran, offering 6-8 hours daily (longer on weekends) of American and European movies, shows, and serials as well as regular news. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar also have all-English channels which can be received in Dhahran much of the year. A roof antenna can be used to pick up telecasts from Kuwait and Oman.

Use of Department of State pouch facilities for shipment of video tapes is authorized. Tapes should be wrapped with no more than 3 tapes to a package (maximum 2 pounds) and clearly marked as containing video tapes.

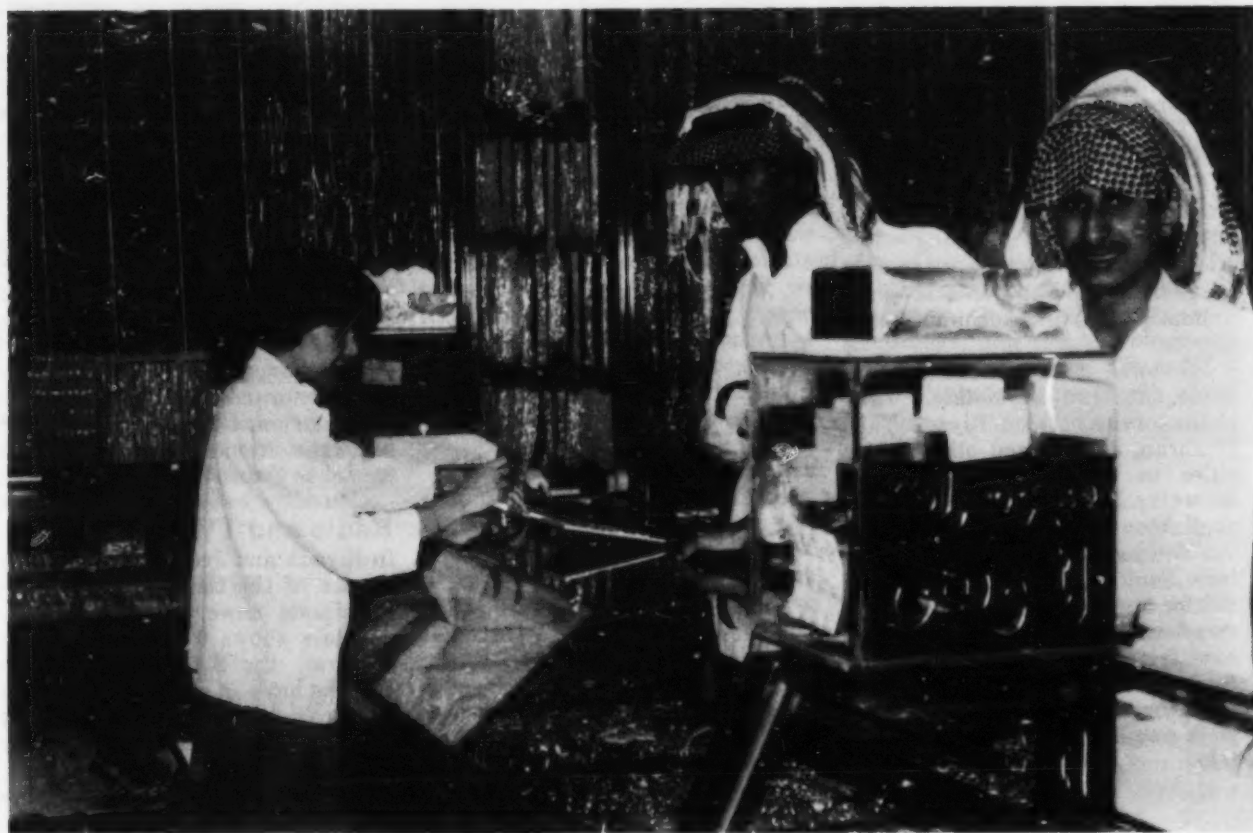
Address packages, which cannot be insured, to:

(Employee Name)
(Post)
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

International editions of magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The Economist* reach newstands about a week after they do in the U.S. English-language newspapers include the *International Herald Tribune*, *London Times*, and three locally produced newspapers, the *Riyadh Daily*, *Arab News*, and *Saudi Gazette*. Foreign publications are always censored. Individual newspaper and magazine subscriptions coming via APO normally arrive 1-2 months late.

Riyadh gold souq.



Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

Riyadh. The regional medical officer is based in Riyadh. The Embassy maintains a Health Unit staffed by the regional medical officer, two American R.N.'s, and an American lab technician. The regional medical officer makes routine visits to both Dhahran and Jeddah.

Embassy and JECOR personnel can also receive outpatient care at the U.S. Corps of Engineers Clinic in Riyadh. This outpatient facility has two American and one expatriate doctor, many R.N.'s, a laboratory, pharmacy, and x-ray facilities. The Corps of Engineers also maintains a dental clinic and an orthodontic clinic.

Jeddah. The Consulate General maintains a Health Unit, staffed by two American contract nurses and the post medical adviser, an American physician. It is run as a typical family practice clinic, and regular clinic hours are maintained Saturday through Wednesday. The doctor or the nurse can be reached through the Marine Guard for emergencies.

Dhahran. The U.S. Military Training Mission (USMTM) maintains an outpatient facility in Dhahran which is open to Consulate General personnel. The dispensary is staffed by a physician, two corpsmen, and a registered nurse. Aramco Hospital, a large modern and JCAH-approved

institution, is available for emergency use. An American physician employed by a U.S. firm is available for consultation and a U.S.-trained and board certified internist is also available.

With the exception of Aramco and Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation (MODA) Hospitals, private medical institutions in Saudi Arabia are below Western standards.

The U.S. Army Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany is used for medical evacuation from Saudi Arabia when medical care and treatment are not available locally.

In extreme emergencies, the regional medical officer is authorized the use of MODA Hospitals in Saudi Arabia and care at these hospitals approaches Western standards. Under special circumstances, use of private hospitals in Jeddah and Riyadh, including obstetrical care, can also be arranged.

Adequate dental care is available in the large cities but is expensive. In Jeddah, the Western community uses a dental clinic with British dentists and American-trained orthodontists on staff.

Pharmacies are available and most have a good supply of drugs and medicines. However, if you regularly take any particular brand of medication or prescription drug, bring a supply with you or arrange to have it sent from the U.S. by air pouch, since availability here cannot be guaranteed.

Preventive Measures

No immunizations are required for Saudi Arabia. Typhoid, tetanus, oral polio, and DPT immunizations should be up to date. Gamma globulin is recommended as a precaution against hepatitis. Malaria, rare in the cities, is still endemic in some outlying rural

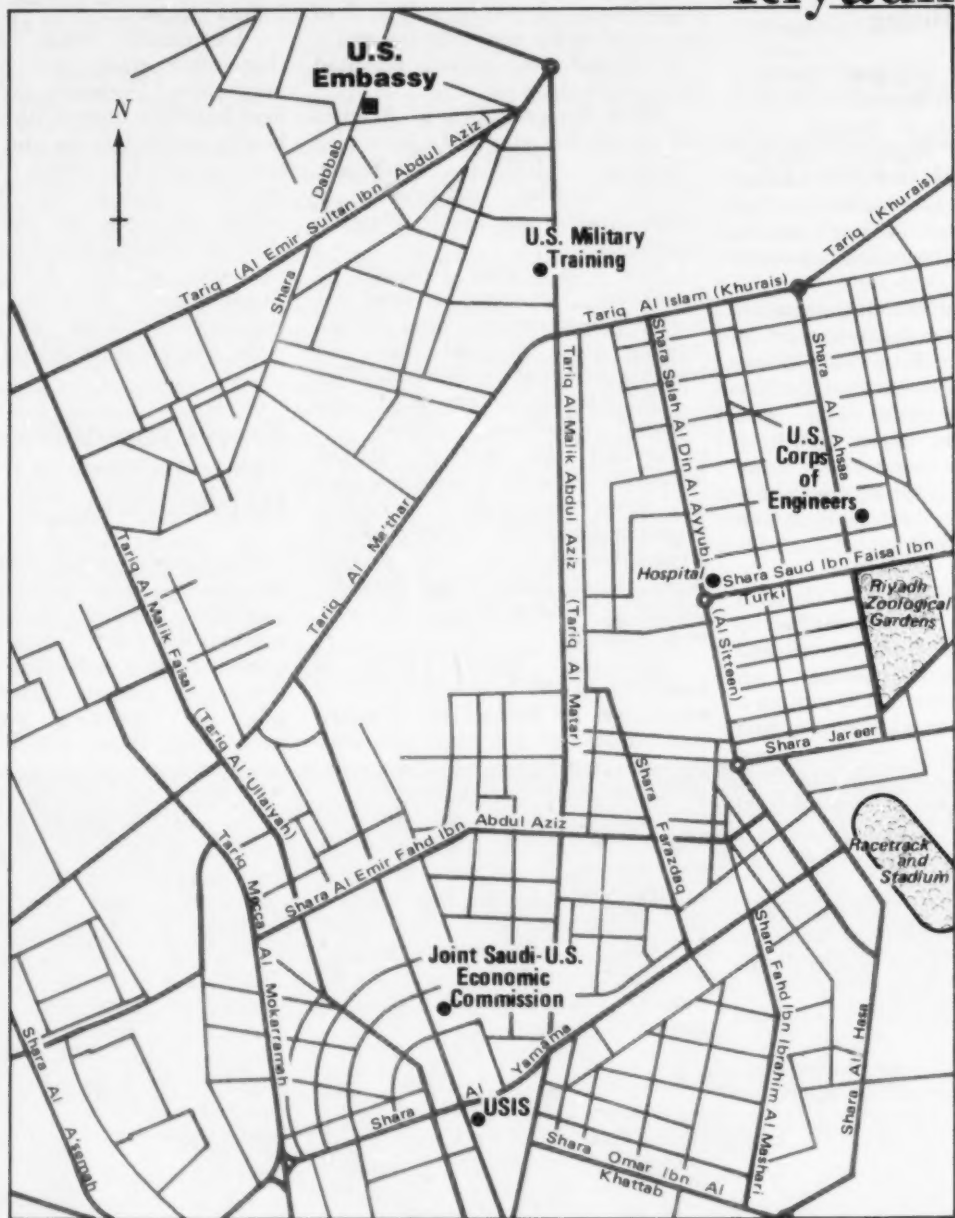
areas. Schistosomiasis is present and can be contracted by swimming in fresh water.

Chemically treat and then thoroughly wash raw fruits and vegetables. Domestic servants and food handlers should have periodic health examinations and maintain good personal hygiene. Tapwater should be boiled for 10 minutes before drinking or making ice. Potable drinking water supplies are available at the Embassy and Consulates General. In restaurants, drink only bottled water and avoid ice cubes.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Limited employment opportunities for spouses and dependents are available. Positions in the business community are available to qualified male individuals but are limited for women. There may be problems obtaining employment with Saudi firms without surrendering your passport to them. Teaching, school administration, and hospital positions, medical and nonmedical, are available to both females and males. Temporary positions sometimes become available at the Embassy and the Consulates General; spouses and dependents have priority for all vacancies. Write the Community Liaison Coordinator for details on the current dependent employment picture. When possible, part-time summer employment is provided for teenage dependents.

Riyadh



6342 1-86 STATE (INR/GE)

American Embassy

Riyadh

Riyadh, the capital city, is near the geographical center of Saudi Arabia. It is about 768 miles east of Jeddah and 280 miles west of Dhahran. Riyadh is connected to both cities by good highways and frequently scheduled Saudia Airline flights. A new express train runs from Riyadh to Dhahran daily.

Riyadh has definite seasons with a wide range of temperatures. From May through October, temperatures can reach 120°F to 130°F, with low humidity. From November through April, temperatures are mild and pleasant during the day with night temperatures sometimes falling as low as 30°F to 40°F in January and February. Some winter clothing is a must. Rainfall is minimal, but when it does rain, it is usually a downpour

and city streets are quickly flooded. About 20,000 Americans reside in Riyadh. Those not connected with the U.S. Government are with private business concerns or are on private contract with the Saudi Government. They are scattered throughout the city and its environs in single villas or compounds.

Riyadh is a boom town growing in every direction, but growth is now at a somewhat slower pace. Highways, tunnels, overpasses, hospitals, schools, high-rise office buildings, parks, elegant villas, apartment complexes, and shopping malls are just a few of the construction sites. Also, a new diplomatic quarter which will house more than 80 embassies is under construction.

The Post and Its Administration

The American Mission began as a Legation in 1942 and achieved Embassy status in 1949. Today it is the largest diplomatic mission in a growing diplomatic community.

Included in the country team are principal Embassy officers, a Defense attache, who is also the Army attache; a country public affairs officer, with a deputy PAO resident in Jeddah; the Foreign Commercial Service attache; Treasury attache; and senior officials with the Joint Economic Commission and USMTM.

The Embassy moved from Jeddah to Riyadh in October 1984. Formerly the Riyadh Liaison Office was a branch office and extension of the Embassy in Jeddah. It served as a link between the Embassy in Jeddah and the Saudi Arabian ministries situated in Riyadh. A large diplomatic quarter is being constructed on the northwest side of town to accommodate all embassies, ambassadors' residences, and living quarters and recreational facilities for staff members and their fam-

ilies. The U.S. Chancery complex, which will include the offices for all agencies, Marine House, warehouses, and recreational facilities, is scheduled for completion in mid-1986. Housing for Embassy personnel and the Ambassador's residence are expected to be completed within a few years.

Office hours at the Embassy are 8 am-5 pm, Saturday through Wednesday. The Embassy observes all American and two Saudi national holidays.

Upon arrival at post, you will be met at the airport. If you are not met, phone the Embassy at 464-0012 and ask for the administrative officer or, after duty hours, the Marine Security Guard will assist you. The Riyadh telephone number may change after the Embassy moves to the new diplomatic quarter in mid-1986.

Each employee is provided with a Welcome Kit which gives basic information on the post and the city of Riyadh. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) provides employees and their families with an orientation on life at the post and in Riyadh and information on a wide variety of topics, such as schooling, servants, transportation, social activities, employment, language training, babysitters, etc. The CLO also publishes a weekly Embassy newsletter. An FSI-sponsored Arabic-language course is open to all personnel and adult dependents.

Other U.S. Government activities located in Riyadh are the USMTM, and a Corps of Engineers program which is assisting Saudi Arabia in the design and construction of several Saudi military headquarters buildings and compounds and in upgrading the Saudi Arabian military's vehicle and weaponry systems. The U.S. Army also is aiding in the modernization of the Saudi National Guard (OPM-SANG). The SANG compound is

Commercial and Consulate Locations

American Arab Association for Commerce and Industry, 34 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017, Tel: 212-986-7229.

Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 1520 - 18th St., NW., Washington, D.C. 20036, Tel: 202-483-2100. Office of the Commercial Attache, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, same address.

Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 596, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tel: 22600, 22700.

Saudi Arabian Consulate, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 480, New York, NY 10017, Tel: 212-752-2740.

Saudi Arabian Educational Mission, 2223 West Loop South, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77027, Tel: 713-629-5170.

SAUDIA, Saudi Arabian Airlines, 747 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017, Tel: 212-758-4727.

U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce, One World Trade Center, New York, NY 10048 and 1819 H St. NW., Washington, D.C. 20006, Tel: 202-293-6975.



New American Embassy under construction.

within walking distance of the Embassy. The Joint Economic Commission (JECOR), under the direction of the Department of the Treasury, sponsors a large number of American personnel who provide a wide range of technical and professional assistance through the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. Most JECOR personnel live in compounds in the Olaya and Sulemaniya areas of Riyadh.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Temporary lodging for incoming personnel is usually avoided. However, when necessary, reservations are made at the Riyadh Marriott Hotel. Several other modern but more expensive hotels, such as the Intercontinental, Hyatt Regency, Al-Khozama, and Riyadh Palace are convenient to the Embassy.

Permanent Housing

Personnel assigned to Riyadh live in U.S. Government short-term housing; therefore, no housing allowance is paid. Most Embassy staff live in two large walled compounds containing houses and recreational facilities. Housing is generally two or three bedroom. Presently, the Ambassador, DCM, Embassy Counselors, and a few families live in single-family villas.

All residences are furnished with appliances, including a stove, refrigerator, freezer, air-conditioning and heating units, washer, dryer, humidifier, dishwasher, and water cooler, as well as adequate furniture, drapes, and carpeting. Bring only those personal items which will make you feel at home as storage space in most residences is minimal. Many houses have gas stoves which use bottled gas supplied by an Embassy contractor.

Electrical power in all homes is 110v, 60-cycle, AC. Outages are infrequent but fluctuations often occur. All homes have telephones.

Newly assigned personnel should contact the administrative officer or CLO for information regarding housing and any special needs or requirements.

Hospitality Kit. The CLO provides a Hospitality Kit upon arrival which includes pots and pans, dishes, glasses, flatware, cooking utensils, linens, blankets, bedspreads, pillows, and some cleaning equipment. These kits are for the use of incoming and departing personnel and should be returned as soon as your airfreight arrives. Airfreight takes at least 4 weeks to reach Riyadh, and customs clearance can delay delivery several additional weeks beyond that, especially during Ramadan or Hajj periods. Surface freight from the U.S. normally takes 2 to 3 months.

Food

A well-stocked commissary and PX, operated by USMTM, are about 6 miles from the Embassy. Fresh fruits and vegetables are flown in weekly from the U.S., and special holiday items are almost always available prior to holiday seasons. The PX carries a basic supply of cosmetics, over-the-counter drugs, linens, some toys, audio and video equipment, gift items, and a small selection of men's, women's, and children's clothing.

Several large supermarkets, including four Safeways, have opened in Riyadh. These, as well as several other large stores, carry a full range of American and European products, frozen foods, fresh produce, good meats, and fresh whole milk. For most food items, prices are double those in the U.S. Fresh fish is available at the local fish market, and shrimp, in particular, is a good buy.

Clothing

Men. During the hot season, about 5 months of the year, most men wear lightweight suits with short-sleeved shirts to work. Safari suits are popular for casual wear and

evening social occasions. Somewhat heavier suits and jackets are worn in winter months, and a lightweight winter jacket or coat is necessary for early morning and evening hours. Winter bathrobes, sweaters, vests, and corduroy slacks are all useful items. All kinds of shoes are available on the local market from expensive Italian-made to inexpensive Far Eastern-made styles. If you have a difficult-to-fit foot, bring an adequate supply of shoes with you. Sandals are especially comfortable for after work.

Women. Bring clothing made of natural fibers (cotton, linen, silk) or with only a small polyester content (less than 50%) for warm months. Clothing with modest necklines which cover the elbows and knees is required for streetwear. Trousers and jeans are seldom worn outside of the home or compound and then only with a loose-fitting tunic top. A wide variety of caftan-type dresses and long skirts are available on the local market but pack at least one in your suitcase so that it is readily available.

During cooler months, lightweight woolen dresses and skirts are comfortable. A winter suit or jacket dress is useful for outdoor parties held on chilly nights.

Children. Children's clothing is available but is expensive. A wide variety of inexpensive clothing made in the Far East can be found, but it is often of poor quality and sized to fit smaller children. Most families order U.S. products through mail-order catalogs. If you have not already done so, establish charge accounts with one or more of the large mail-order firms. Children should have sweaters and a lightweight jacket.

The dress code for the Saudi Arabian International School requires girls to wear blouses or dresses with sleeves and skirts that come to the knee. Loose-fitting pants are also permitted. Girls in grades 4-9 may wear Bermuda-type shorts only during physical education classes. Through grade 3, students may wear short pants to school. Older boys should wear

shirts with sleeves and long pants. For physical education only, boys may wear sweatpants or shorts.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Most personal and household supplies are available here. A full selection of perfumes, cosmetics, medicines, hair-care items, etc. are available either at the PX or on the local market. Anyone on long-term medication should bring a 3-month supply in case it is not available. A copy of your prescription may be required by customs inspectors. Otherwise, most prescription medicines are in stock at local pharmacies.

Christmas decorations are not available, so ship what you need. Include an artificial tree and decorations in your shipment (or air-freight if you leave in late summer). Holiday items for Easter and Halloween are not in abundant quantity. Children's birthday party supplies are available, but toys are two to three times higher than U.S. prices; bring a few toys for children close to the ages of your children for birthday parties. Lunch boxes, school bags, picnic and camping supplies, etc., are available in limited supply at the PX or locally, at prices one to two times higher than in the U.S.

Basic Services

Adequate drycleaning and laundry services are available but are not up to U.S. standards. Difficult-to-clean items such as suedes, good silks, brocades, or velvets should not be cleaned locally. Prices are higher than in the U.S.

Barbershops and hair stylists for men are available, but prices are \$10-\$30. The Corps of Engineers barber is in a compound about 20 minutes from the Embassy and charges about \$3 for a haircut. One beauty shop on the SANG compound has two operators and is open 6 days a week. Most beauticians operate out of their private homes. No beauty shops can be found in hotels or public areas in Riyadh.

Dressmakers are abundant, but you must take your measurements with you when you visit the shop, i.e., fitting is not possible. Patterns are not available locally, but a dressmaker can follow a magazine or hand-drawn picture. A wide selection of material is available, but pure cottons, calico-type prints, etc., are difficult to find.

Domestic Help

Good, trained servants are difficult to find and are rarely available immediately. Most servants come from Sri Lanka, Philippines, India, Pakistan, or Eritrea. Wages range from \$200 to \$550 per month plus food and lodging or food allowance. Single personnel often share a servant and pay about \$6-\$7 per hour.

Employers supply medical care and often some clothing and uniforms. Servants do not work on Fridays, and are given Saudi holidays off. Bonuses, totaling a month's salary are expected and are paid in two installments divided between the Ramadan and Hajj holidays for Muslim servants and Christmas and Easter for Christian servants.

Religious Activities

Only Islamic services are legally permitted in Saudi Arabia. However, discrete Christian services are held in expatriate compounds and private homes. Several groups meet privately for weekly meetings, but no open advertisement or notices may be distributed. The CLO has information on meetings and religious instruction for children.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. The Saudi Arabian International School of Riyadh—American Section (SAISR-AM) is located about 7 miles from the Embassy. It has a student body of over 2,000 from 17 nations. The school includes a preschool for 4-year-olds and kindergarten through grade 9. The student/teacher ratio is 13 to 1 and the teachers, primarily Americans, are all qualified in their fields.

SAISR-AM is licensed by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education. It is governed by a school board elected annually by the parents. The school was established in 1963 and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. The curriculum is American, and instruction is in English. The post allowance covers the registration fee. The Embassy provides door-to-door transportation for schoolchildren.

SAISR-AM has four libraries with a total of 36,000 volumes and 2,600 audio-visual kits, science labs, a large covered four-court gymnasium/auditorium and a large outdoor playground and sports area. Intra-Kingdom sports include girls and boys volleyball, basketball, softball, and soccer. An Intra-Kingdom Student Congress Workshop and an "academic games" contest are held annually. Extracurricular activities include a choral group, drama, yearbook, and 25 after-school activities. The school also offers classes in art, band, music, speech, drama, typing, study skills, mechanical drawing,

computer sciences, French, and Arabic. SAISR-AM has limited facilities for students with learning problems. The school, by policy, cannot accept students who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped to the extent that students cannot integrate into a normal program of studies.

The school term is from early September until early June, with a 3-week Christmas vacation and a 1-week vacation in spring (not necessarily at Easter).

An International School with an international-type curriculum is nearing completion in the new Riyadh Diplomatic Quarter, across the street from the U.S. Embassy site. This school plans to open in the fall of 1986.

A British-run school for kindergarten through grade 8 is situated about 4 miles from the Embassy. The school year runs from early October through June. Tuition is within the educational allowance. Further information is available from the CLO. Small French and German schools also operate in Riyadh.

Embassy children are allowed to enroll in the OPM-SANG nursery school (cost \$1.50 per hour) or the Corps of Engineers Day Care Center, although SANG and Corps children have priority. Many good American-style nursery schools and playgroups operate in private homes. They cost from \$200-\$250 per month for a 5-day week. The CLO has lists of nursery schools.

Away From Post. Education for children in grades 10-12 is not available anywhere in Saudi Arabia. Most children attend high school in Europe or the U.S. An education allowance is available for students attending high school away from post.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Tennis, swimming, and camping are the most popular outdoor sports in Riyadh. Embassy employees have access to three tennis courts on Embassy compounds and the



International School at the new Diplomatic Quarter.

recreational facilities of the OPM-SANG and JECOR compounds. A Riyadh Tennis League and a number of tennis tournaments take place during the year. A small swimming pool is located at the Embassy Recreation Center. Pools are also located at the three larger Embassy compounds and in a number of the single-family villas. Children from 4-15 may join the Dolphin Swim Team which holds meets with other teams in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran.

Several bowling alleys are located in Riyadh but men and women are not permitted to bowl together. The Corps of Engineers and JECOR have bowling leagues which Embassy personnel can join. Riding lessons are available and horses can be boarded at Riyadh stables.

An 18-hole golf course with oiled browns is located near the airport. Membership is inexpensive. Organized basketball, softball, and volleyball leagues also welcome Embassy participation. Despite the lack of water, there is an active scuba club in Riyadh. Lessons and certification are available and monthly dives are arranged in Jeddah.

Most public spectator sports are open to men only. The horseracing season from October through May and the annual camel races are open to women as well.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Camping or day trips in the desert are popular during November through March. Tents and camping equipment can be bought locally or ordered through various catalogs.

The Desert Ramblers are a group that meets monthly to exchange information on desert travel and organize desert sports (such as sand surfing). Among the most popular sites within an hour's drive from Riyadh are Diriyah, Al-Kharj, and the camel trails. Diriyah is the ruined capital of the Al-Saud state, established in 1726 and destroyed in 1818 by a punitive expedition sent by the Ottoman Empire. It is

being restored by the Ministry of Education's Department of Antiquities. The Al-Kharj area is green with palm groves and farms. The town itself is dominated by a magnificent castle built by Abdul Aziz. Three large water holes in the area are favorite picnic sites. The camel trails are located along the escarpment southeast of Riyadh. Climbing the trails to the top of the escarpment results in a beautiful view of the surrounding hills, sand dunes, and wadis.

Many visitors enjoy hunting for fossils and desert diamonds in the areas around Riyadh. Desert diamonds are, in fact, quartz crystal and most likely were formed by the action of lightning striking and fusing sand particles. In their natural state, they look like lumps of sand-colored glass, but when cut and polished, they look authentic set into earrings, pendants, and rings. They are best seen in the early morning or at dusk, when the sun's rays make them sparkle.

Social Activities

Although social life primarily revolves around the home, a number of organizations in Riyadh offer social activities. The Riyadh International Women's Group (RIWG) has a monthly meeting attended by more than 1,000 women. It sponsors a number of coffees, luncheons, and evening affairs during the month. It also provides information on bridge, sewing, cooking, gardening, exercise, and other group activities.

A number of musical groups meet weekly and put on performances during the year. Contact the CLO for information about the Chorale Society, the Concert Committee, the Concert Band, the Woodwind Ensemble, and the Folksinging group.

The Riyadh Players is an active amateur theatrical group which puts on a number of productions each season.

Free movies are shown nightly at the JECOR, OPM-SANG, and Corps of Engineers compounds. Children's matinees are shown on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Once a month, a local amusement park has a Westerner's morning. On this morning, Western families can enjoy the rides together. At all other times the parks are not open to mixed groups.

Lebanese, Indian, Italian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and continental foods are served at innumerable restaurants which range from expensive to moderate. Several fast-food restaurants, such as Hardees, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dairy Queen, numerous pizza houses, and ice cream stores such as Baskin-Robbins and Swensen's have opened recently. Families are welcome at most of these establishments but there are restrictions on unescorted women eating at some establishments.

Official Functions

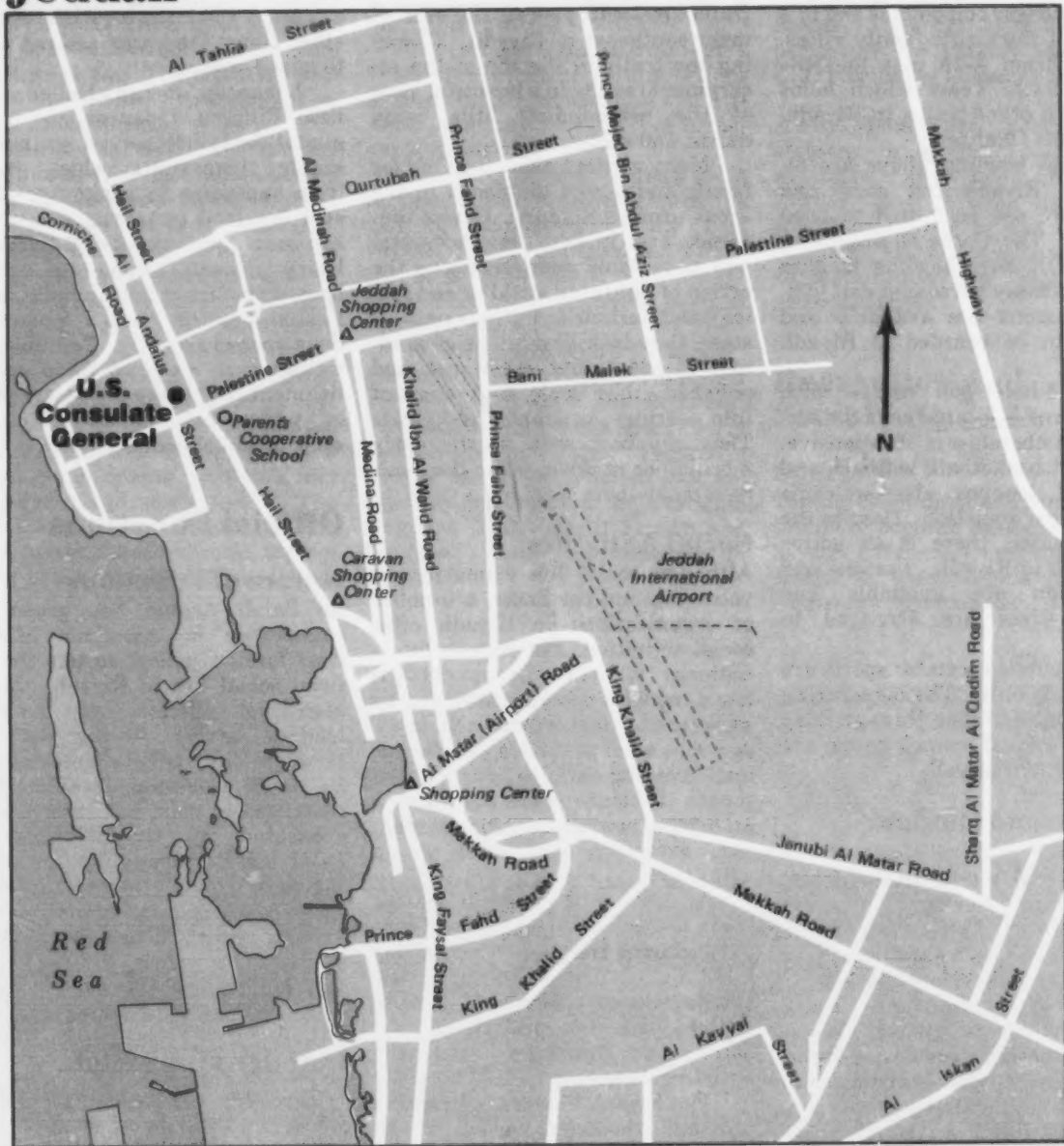
Nature of Functions

As Saudi Arabia has grown in importance in American Middle East foreign policy, so has the official social life in Riyadh. Many high-level official and business leaders arrive during October through May. Official entertaining by Saudi Government officials is restricted to men, but entertaining sponsored by the Ambassador, DCM, and Embassy officials usually includes wives. Informal dinners and receptions are the most common form of entertaining done by U.S. officials. Barbecues, dinner parties, and buffets are the most popular informal entertainment.

Standards of Social Conduct

Officers should bring at least 100 calling cards with them. These cards do not have to be engraved. Informals are most useful. Both cards and informals can be printed in English and Arabic in Riyadh, but at prices higher than in the U.S.

Jeddah



6343 1-86 STATE (INR/GE)

Consulate General

Jeddah

The American Mission began as a Legation in 1942 and achieved Embassy status in 1949. Although Jeddah traditionally had been the diplomatic capital of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Government has required all foreign embassies to relocate to Riyadh. The American Embassy transferred to Riyadh in October 1984. The former Embassy compound in Jeddah is now a Consulate General.

Located on the Red Sea, Jeddah is at about the same latitude as Calcutta, Hong Kong, and Honolulu, and is one of the country's chief ports.

With an estimated population of about 2 million, Jeddah enjoys a thriving commercial life year round. It becomes even busier during the Hajj, which is the last month of the Muslim year, when over 1 million Muslim pilgrims from all over the world pass through Jeddah en route to Makkah, 45 miles away.

Of the 50,000 Americans in Saudi Arabia, about 20,000 live in the Jeddah district. Most work for American firms under contract to the Saudi Government of which Saudia Airlines, Raytheon, Litton, Dallah-Avco, Lockheed, and Mobil are the largest employers. About 200 U.S. firms and many international engineering, construction, and consulting firms operate in Jeddah. Most American families live in separate compounds or houses scattered throughout the city.

Many pilgrims coming to Saudi Arabia every year for Hajj remain to work. As a result, a cross section of Muslim countries have left some pilgrims in Jeddah, giving the city a cosmopolitan character. Lebanese, Indians, Pakistanis, Syrians, Palestinians, Yemenis, Egyptians, Europeans, and Asians all form a part of the foreign community.

Except for American business representatives and official visitors, few Americans visit Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Government does not issue tourist visas. Hajj visas are issued to American citizens who are Muslims. Some American Muslims study full time at the University of Medina School of Religion.

The Post and Its Administration

The post has the following sections: Executive, Political/Economic, Consular, Administrative, Foreign Commercial Service, Public Affairs (USIS), an Agricultural Trade Office (ATO), and an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regional office which will relocate to Riyadh in 1986.

Office hours are 8 am-5 pm, Saturday through Wednesday with a lunch hour from noon to 1 pm. A Marine Security Guard is on duty 24 hours daily.

Other U.S. Government activities in Jeddah are USMTM, an Army Corps of Engineers Unit, and a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mission attached to the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals. USMTM detachments are also located in Taif, Riyadh, Khamis Mushayt, Tabuk, Al-Kharj, and Dhahran.

The Consulate General, about 4 miles from the center of town in the Ruwais district, once overlooked the Red Sea. When originally built, it was nearly alone in the desert. Today, however, the effects of the boom of the Saudi economy are ever-present with landfill having pushed the seashore west and new houses, office buildings, and shopping centers now surround the compound. Adjacent to the

Consulate General the Saudis have built an official guesthouse and Royal Palace.

The compound contains residences for the Ambassador, the consul general, and other post personnel as well as the Consulate General building, USIS offices, maintenance facilities, swimming pool, and children's playground. In addition, a golf course, squash court, swimming pool, and six tennis courts belong to the Dunes Club, a non-U.S. Government facility located on the compound, which Consulate General personnel can join. The Commercial Office and the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) office are located across the street from the compound.

New arrivals are met at the airport by their sponsor and an expeditor. If for some reason you are not met, telephone the Consulate General (667-0080) for assistance. If you must take a taxi, the address "American Consulate" translates phonetically into "assa-fara alamerikiya." Usually a Westerner is besieged by willing taxi drivers, most of whom speak some English. Cabs are yellow and are distinguished by Arabic script on the fenders or large red circles on the doors and lights on the roof front. For a higher fee you can take a "Saudi Limousine" vehicle, a more comfortable and reliable means of transportation. Agree on the fare with the driver before entering the taxi if it is unmetered and, if possible, have exact change in order to avoid embarrassing situations. The usual fare from the airport to the Consulate General is SR 80 or about \$25.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Temporary lodging for incoming personnel and/or visitors is used minimally, as local hotels are expensive and often fully booked.

When necessary, reservations are made at either the Sands, Al-Hamra Sofitel, Marriott, Hyatt, Ramada, or Holiday Inn Hotels.

Permanent Housing

All personnel assigned to Jeddah live in government-owned or -leased quarters; therefore, no housing allowance is paid. On-compound housing includes the larger residences of the Ambassador and consul general, one mid-level officer home, 8 prefabricated bungalows, 2 small houses, and 8 staff apartments, one of which houses the Health Unit. At present, 18 off-compound houses and 2 apartments are occupied by State, USIS, ATO, and Department of Commerce personnel. Housing is scattered throughout the northern section of Jeddah, none more than a 10-minute drive from the Consulate General.

The Ambassador's residence, used when the Saudi Government moves to Taif during hot summers, is a 1-story, cement-block house with 6 bedrooms, a family living room, 6½ baths, 3 reception rooms, dining room, kitchen, work pantry, laundry, storage room, and 5 servants quarters with adjoining bath.

The consul general's residence is a 1-story house with a large L-shaped living room, dining room, study, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, serving pantry, 2 servants rooms, and an outdoor terrace suitable for entertaining in cooler months.

The mid-level officer's house has a large living room, separate dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, pantry, servants rooms, and outdoor terrace.

The 8 prefabricated "Crawford" bungalows and 2 houses have 2, 3, or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry/storage room, and some have small dens. All are small with no separate quarters for servants.

Two 2-bedroom staff apartments on compound have separate living/dining rooms, 2½ baths, small den, and a large storage room. These are reserved for couples, or families with one child. The five staff apartments have adjacent living-dining rooms, one bedroom with bath, kitchen, and storage room and are available for single staff personnel.

Off-compound housing, typically less than 2 miles from the Consulate General, is a detached or semidetached villa with a surrounding wall. These villas usually have a living room, dining room, den and/or family living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 or 2½ baths, and servants quarters.

Some differences exist between on-compound (American style) and off-compound (Arabic) housing. On-compound housing has smaller rooms and American-style kitchens, and is easier to maintain. Off-compound houses have higher ceilings, larger rooms, wider halls, and foyers, some with large European-style kitchens and bathrooms, few closets, and are completely walled in.

Newly assigned personnel should write the Consulate General's Administrative Section to ask about housing and mention any special family needs.

Furnishings

The Consulate General provides basic furnishings for all houses including tables, chairs, lamps, sofas, china closets, desks, rugs, draperies, beds, wardrobes, and other miscellaneous items.

Except for the Ambassador and consul general residences, china, glassware, and silverware are not provided. Each house has a basic set of modern furniture adequate for the needs of an average family. You can augment the furniture with a few of your own items.

The Consulate General provides Hospitality Kits containing dishes, silverware, kitchenware, and linens for use of incoming and departing personnel. Storage space is at a premium, so bring only necessities. Send airfreight at least 4-6 weeks before you expect to arrive at post. Customs clearances, even on airfreight, can take from a week to more than a month. Surface-shipped household effects from the U.S. to Jeddah take 6-12 weeks. The time from other posts depends on distance and the number of transshipments involved.

Utilities and Equipment

Electric power is 110v, 60-cycle, AC, supplied throughout Jeddah by the city power company. Power outages and frequency fluctuations occur occasionally.

All housing has hot and cold running water and modern bathrooms with tubs and/or showers. Refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, washers, dryers, and vacuum cleaners are provided. On-compound quarters have electric ranges. Most off-compound quarters have gas stoves which use bottled gas supplied by the Consulate General.

Both large and small household appliances are sold on the local market and repair service has improved in recent years. All types of electronic equipment (stereos, videos, TV's, etc.) can be purchased either at the PX or on the local market at reasonable prices. All homes have telephones. The occupant pays all fees.

Food

The U.S. Army maintains a commissary on the Consulate General compound. It has a good stock of food items, some of which are not available on the local market. Fresh fruits and vegetables are flown in weekly from the U.S. and Europe. Occasionally some items are missing due to delay in delivery, but they can be found on the local market.

Several Jeddah supermarkets, including a Safeway and smaller stores, stock a complete assortment of Western and other imported foods, including most canned goods, mixes, prepared foods, cleaning supplies, dairy products, spices, and coffee. Prices are higher than in the U.S. or at the commissary. Frozen fish, lamb, poultry, and frozen or chilled beef are also available as is baby food. Due to the Muslim prohibition against eating pork, no pork products can be purchased on the local market. Dairy products are safe, and most fruits and vegetables are available, though some are seasonal.

Oranges from Lebanon and Morocco are excellent and fruits such as mangoes and pineapples are available in season. Bakery bread is



Clockwise from left: Old Turkish fort in Arafat; rooftops and minaret in Al Me-dinah; cosmopolitan Jeddah; apartment complex in Jeddah.



cheap and good, and local meat, cheaper than imported cuts, is sold on the same day it is butchered. Care must be used in its preparation; well-done meats are recommended.

Clothing

Men. Although it is possible to wear summer clothing year round, some men prefer slightly heavier suits in winter. Most favor wash-and-wear clothing year round because drycleaning quality is undependable, although improving. Coats and ties are standard dress for work.

Morning coat or white tie is not needed. Men wear dark business suits to formal occasions. Black tie for men is rare. When required, a tropical-weight tuxedo or a tropical-weight white dinner jacket is acceptable. Dark business suits are suitable for informal occasions.

Short-sleeved sport shirts and slacks are most common for casual wear. Never wear shorts downtown, visiting, or shopping. Bring several pairs of tennis shoes for sports and Red Sea swimming as protection from the sharp coral. Include a few heavier winter items for vacations to cooler climates.

American and European clothing is sold in Jeddah, but an adequate variety of sizes can be difficult to find. Sportswear, shirts, underwear, socks, dress shoes, and tennis shoes are available, but expensive. As prices of Western-style clothing sometimes are prohibitive, bring a good supply to post and plan to reorder from the U.S. by mail-order catalogs.

Women. Because winter is cooler in contrast to the torrid summer, many women wear heavier, darker cottons and knits during cooler months to vary their wardrobes. Even light jackets, stoles, and cardigans are comfortable at night and in air-conditioned homes and offices. Knits are comfortable but wash-and-wear types are best because of variable local drycleaning quality. You can wear summer clothes year round, especially to the office.

Dresses, skirts and blouses, or pantsuits are appropriate work

apparel. Few occasions during the day call for clothing more formal than simple cotton or linen dresses. If you are on the compound or entertaining Westerners in your home, U.S. styles and standards of dress are appropriate. You can follow current Western fashion if you adhere to Islamic dress restrictions while in public. Miniskirts are not acceptable. You can wear shorts or slacks for sports but only in the Western community. Sleeveless dresses or skirts above the knee, although acceptable for social occasions, **should not be worn downtown.**

Long, loose dresses with high collars and long sleeves, modeled on the "thobe," a garment worn by local men, have become popular for shopping and are recommended as they meet local customs. However, bring your measurements or a sample of your size in a similar dress. Measurements cannot be taken in the shop nor can dresses be tried on. Local "souqs" (markets) have a large supply of Moroccan caftans at reasonable prices.

For sportswear, bring simple shifts, bermuda shorts, slacks, blouses and skirts, and beachwear. Because of the wind and sun, a hat or scarf is desirable for daytime outside activities.

Women wear a greater variety of dresses for informal dinners and receptions than is the case in the U.S. American women in Jeddah dress less formally than in more cosmopolitan cities. Include cocktail dresses and at least five or six dresses for informal dinners, all preferably wash-and-wear. During summer months there is no cold water in Jeddah—the temperature out of the tap is warm. Therefore, pure cotton clothing may shrink when washed so bring poly/cotton blends. As in the U.S., long dresses are popular for receptions, cocktails, and dinners, both casual and formal. The same is true for caftan-style garments which are comfortable even in summer heat. Bring at least one floor-length formal dress. Because of variable drycleaning and the weather, elaborate silk, velvet, or brocade dresses are impractical.

Several boutiques sell the latest in women's clothing, but sizes are limited. Lingerie, hosiery, and dresses are expensive. Bring a good supply and arrange to reorder from the U.S. Italian shoes and sandals are available but are expensive. A good supply of footwear is a must since acceptable shoe repair is seldom available.

Children. Bring a good supply of children's clothing to post and order replacement items as needed. You can buy most children's wear here in limited quantity, but quality varies and prices fluctuate.

Older boys wear corduroys, blue jeans, or washable slacks and T-shirts or sports shirts for school. Girls wear dresses or pants to school but should keep backs covered, and not wear midriff blouses. Tank tops and sleeveless tops are not recommended. Baby clothes are available but expensive. Diapers are available in sufficient quantity.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Most personal and household needs can be met here. A full selection of perfumes, cosmetics, medicines, and like items are available. Many prescription medicines are stocked, but bring a 3-month supply of any prescribed medicine in case it is not sold here. Mail subsequent prescription orders through the Department of State pouch system.

Christmas decorations are available at the PX in limited quantities so bring any supplies you may need. Include an artificial tree and decorations in your household effects. Live trees are **not** available.

Greeting cards and stationery are expensive, but available in limited supply both on the local market and at the small military PX in Jeddah.

Basic Services

A few dressmakers do satisfactory work, but women cannot have their measurements taken or be fitted for clothes. Few dress patterns are sold here but a wide selection of clothing fabrics is available. Bring a supply of notions with you. Few men have

suits tailored here, as style, cut, and workmanship are often poor.

Laundry service is provided by a concessionaire on the compound. Local drycleaning is expensive and sometimes hard on clothing. A beauty/barbershop run by the European Army PX system is on compound, and many beauty shops in private villas offer hairdressing services at prices comparable to those in the U.S.

Domestic Help

Good, trained servants are hard to find and are usually referred from family to family. Servants are mainly Yemeni, Somali, or Sudanese who came to Jeddah during the pilgrimage and remained. More recently servants have come from the Philippines and the Seychelles. Families with small children may need a female servant, most of whom are from Eritrea, the Philippines, or Seychelles.

Full-time servants' wages begin at SR 1500 (\$425) a month, depending on hours worked, plus food or food allowance. Employers sometimes supply uniforms, and most employers provide medical care and one round-trip ticket to the country of origin, usually at the end of a 2-year contract. Servants do not work on Fridays, the Muslim Sabbath, and are given days off during Ramadan and the Hajj. Bonuses, totaling a month's salary, are expected, divided between these two occasions. Employers pay no taxes or social security. One servant is usually sufficient, but off-compound families may also need a part-time gardener. Limited part-time cleaning help is available at a cost of between SR 15-25 per hour, plus transportation.

Religious Activities

Islamic religious services are the only ones legally permitted in Saudi Arabia. No churches exist, but discrete weekly meetings are conducted in private homes.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. The Parents' Cooperative School (PCS) enrolls Consulate General children from kindergarten through grade 9. It is operated by the Saudi national airline, Saudia. Personnel of Raytheon, other U.S. companies, and the Consulate General participate on the school board. The 1984-85 enrollment was 1,600 and the student-teacher ratio was 20 to 1. The school's Main Campus (grades 6-9) is a short distance from the Consulate General compound. North Campus, kindergarten through grade 5, is a 20-25 minute bus ride from the Consulate General.

Teachers are recruited in the U.S. or are dependents of American employees. Special teachers instruct physical education, music, band, art, orchestra, remedial reading, and English and mathematics for advanced students. All faculty members are qualified in their teaching fields. The school's administrative staff includes a superintendent, curriculum coordinator, and counselors. The teaching staff totals 127 at the PCS Main Campus and 41 at the North Campus.

PCS has a general science lab, combination auditorium-gymnasium, a homemaking lab, computer rooms, a Resource Center for remedial math, English, etc., and a media center which houses the video center, boardrooms, the junior high school, and the library. The library has a present collection of 15,500 volumes, with an additional 5,200 books in the primary school library.

Extracurricular activities include Little League softball and T-ball, basketball, soccer, swim team (semiprivate), and intramurals twice a week. Varsity sports include track, volleyball, softball, and basketball. Other activities like the Honor Society, and Girl and Boy Scout programs are mentioned in further detail in the *PCS Handbook*, available from the school.

The school term is from late August through early June, totaling the 180 school days

required in most U.S. schools. In addition to winter and spring breaks, there is a Hajj break.

The Continental School, established in October 1977, follows a British system (kindergarten through grade 5), has some 49 different nationalities enrolled, and takes children from 3½ to 16 years old. For the 1984-85 school year, 1,200 children were enrolled and the staff/child ratio is about 1 to 10. The school schedule follows the British system and the first term begins late September and runs through December; the second term begins in January and runs through March; the third term begins in April and goes through early July. Children are accepted on a space-available basis only, and it is difficult to obtain space.

Small French and German schools are also in operation. Fees are within the education allowance.

Arabic nursery schools are numerous but not acceptable for Americans. Satisfactory American and British-managed nursery schools are expensive. The average cost is SR 1500-SR 2000 per trimester for a morning session of about 3 hours. The education allowance for Jeddah covers yearly tuition and other charges for Consulate General dependents.

Away From Post. Education for students in grades 10-12 is not available in Saudi Arabia. Most children attend schools in Europe, the U.K., or the U.S. The high school student counselor at PCS maintains an excellent file on specific schools and will help families find schools for their high school children. The current amount of away-from-post education allowances can be obtained from the Standardized Regulations.

Post Orientation Program

The Community Liaison Office briefs all newcomers to Jeddah and gives them an updated Welcome Kit, an introduction to the area, and an orientation to the Consulate General facilities and staff. The CLO also provides information and referral services on a wide variety of

topics, helps to promote post morale and a sense of community, works to facilitate dependent employment, and maintains liaison contact with the Department. An FSI-sponsored Arabic-language course is open to personnel and adult dependents.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

The Consulate General has a volleyball court and swimming pool for U.S. Government personnel, their dependents, and guests. The pool measures 36' x 60', varying in depth from 4½' to 10', and has a diving board. Dressing rooms, bathrooms, and showers are within the pool complex. A spacious concrete area surrounds the pool and is equipped with tables and chairs.

The Dunes Club, a private sporting club, is located in the northeast corner of the compound and houses a golf course, six tennis courts, a swimming pool, and two squash-handball-racquetball courts. Membership is available for a fee, or employees can check out one of several passes purchased by the Recreation Association—the American Employees Facilities and Services Association (AEFSA). The golf course is a 9-hole, par 31, 2,045-yard sand course with oiled sand "browns." Although inferior to grass courses, it is a pleasant diversion for the avid golfer. Bring golf clubs, balls, etc. Canvas or tennis shoes are best for playing the course.

Organized sports leagues for both adults and children, include volleyball, softball, two running clubs, tennis, squash, and basketball. Except for these leagues and occasional soccer matches (open to men only), no regular spectator sports exist in Jeddah. Bring softball gloves and equipment if you play. An active women's softball league is also available.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

The area around Jeddah offers many points of interest: the Red Sea with its beautiful coral reefs, the lonely desert vistas, nearby oases, and the foothills which take

on purple hues in early morning or late afternoon.

Taif, nestled in the mountains, is only a 2½ hour drive from Jeddah. Located 6,000 feet above sea level, its climate offers welcome relief in summer. The King and his ministers maintain summer homes and offices there to escape the searing heat of Riyadh and Jeddah. A good, paved road winds its way up the escarpment and provides a panorama of surrounding mountains. You can make reservations at excellent Taif hotels like the Sheraton or Intercontinental, but they are expensive.

Coastal waters around Jeddah provide exceptional deep-sea fishing. Shark, amberjack, barracuda, tuna, grouper, red snapper, seabass, and an occasional sailfish are caught in nearby waters. If you are interested in deep-sea fishing, bring a good rod and reel. The reel should be at least the equivalent of a Penn Senator 6/0. Boats can be rented in Jeddah harbor, though at high cost. Some residents enjoy sailing and boating, and own windsurfing or light sailing vessels.

A protected inlet known as "The Creek" (Abhor Creek), 24 miles north of the city, provides a popular spot for boating, swimming, and picnicking. Most families visit the beach area by car and remain several hours to picnic, snorkel/dive, and collect shells.

Underwater scenes of the Red Sea are among the most beautiful in the world, making snorkeling and scuba diving popular. An extraordinary variety of fish, swimming in a stunning background of coral formations, provides a glimpse of an entirely different world. Snorkeling requires only tennis shoes, fins, snorkel, and mask. You can buy these items locally at prices slightly higher than in the U.S.

Scuba diving is also popular among post employees. You can dive in the Red Sea 9 months of the year without a wetsuit. Compressed air is readily available at reasonable cost. Tanks, wetsuits, regulators, and buoyancy compensator prices are also reasonable. If

you are a certified diver, have your equipment serviced and ship it to post. If you are interested in scuba diving but are not certified, instructors give lessons regularly at various locations around Jeddah. Rental diving equipment is available here.

Overnight desert camping trips, especially in winter, are popular. The lonely desert provides a pleasant contrast to the bustling, clamorous city, and certain spots in the desert and mountains are beautiful.

Wadi Fatima and Wadi Khulays, oases not too far from Jeddah on the road to Makkah, offer scenic spots in the cooler months. The terrain around Wadi Fatima is pleasantly irregular, the air is fresh, and streams provide water for palm and citrus groves, a phenomenon unknown around Jeddah.

Farther away, Waba crater, an explosion crater 3 kilometers across and 1,000 feet deep, offers a unique destination for overnight camping.

Local custom prohibits photographing Arab women, and the Saudi Government requests that pictures not be taken of poor areas, dirty or diseased persons, or beggars. Excessive use of a camera in populated areas may attract unfavorable attention; so take photographs discreetly. Photography of airports, ports, industrial or military facilities is not permitted.

You can buy film, flashbulbs, and other photographic supplies locally and from the PX. Photographic equipment is inexpensive, but local film prices are high, doubling or tripling U.S. costs. Black-and-white and color film is processed here, and quality is good, but U.S. mail-order services may be preferable for developing needs since local processing costs are expensive.

If you enjoy gardening, bring flower and vegetable seeds that withstand hot climate. Hardy house plants that do well include philodendron, avocado, African violet, coleus, and many types of ferns. Herbs that do well are dill, basil, parsley, mint, and oregano. Vegetables most often grown are

corn, beets, tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers, green beans, okra, radishes, and onions. The hardiest outdoor plants are oleander, bougainvillea, canna lily, periwinkle, jasmine, miniature poinsettia, hibiscus, zinnias, and marigolds.

Several types of succulents and cacti are available either in local nurseries or through friends that already have established gardens. These gardens usually have some kind of fruit tree; for example, banana, lime, guava, or papaya.

Many wild flowers and plants grow in the desert area, primarily annuals that spring up after the first rain and bloom for a brilliant but brief time.

Entertainment

Western forms of public entertainment do not exist in Jeddah. Since there are no cinemas, theaters, or operas, some members of the Western community present stage plays from time to time. There are also infrequent concerts sponsored by a classical music group which feature visiting artists from abroad, and a choral society and dance group open to Westerners.

Many Jeddah restaurants serve local and international cuisine; standards may differ from those of a good American or European restaurant, and prices are higher. Shopping in the Jeddah "souq" (market) for Arab handicrafts and other items can be a pleasant pastime.

DOD circuit movies seldom arrive the same year they are released but are shown in the Consulate General auditorium

when received, which is infrequent. AEFSa operates a growing videotape library with Beta-type tapes rented out for a small fee.

Personnel most often travel to the U.K., Kenya, Cyprus, Jordan, Greece, or Italy for changes of scenery, shopping, the cinema, restaurants, and a more Western milieu. Airfare from Jeddah to these locations is expensive, but Saudia and some other airlines offer diplomatic discounts on their international flights. Many attractive package deals to other destinations are also available.

Social Activities

Social activity in Jeddah revolves around the home since no public entertainment or clubs exist. Buffet and sitdown dinners are typical forms of entertainment. For official functions, guests may include both Saudis and members of the foreign community. In recent years in creasing numbers of Saudi married couples have come to these affairs. Bridge, too, is a popular pastime. Weekends find many people snorkeling and scuba diving in the Red Sea.

The American Ladies of Jeddah, a community-wide women's club that sponsors recreational, social, and welfare projects, is open to any Consulate General women wishing to join. The group publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Red Sea Squares, a square dancing group, meets weekly and offers lessons to newcomers. Also popular is the Saudi Arabian Natural History Society. This group meets once a month, publishes its own journal, corresponds worldwide with other societies, and offers an interesting insight into the natural history of Saudi Arabia. In addition to the clubs already mentioned for adults,

there are several others, including a riding club.

For those who enjoy volunteer work, there are two women's welfare societies in Jeddah. Since membership is limited to women, it presents an excellent opportunity for Americans to meet Saudi women. These societies work to improve conditions for orphans, literacy, and health education. They also offer training in sewing, secretarial work, and language training for both Arab and foreign women. During the year, they each hold several social gatherings and an annual bazaar.

Official Functions

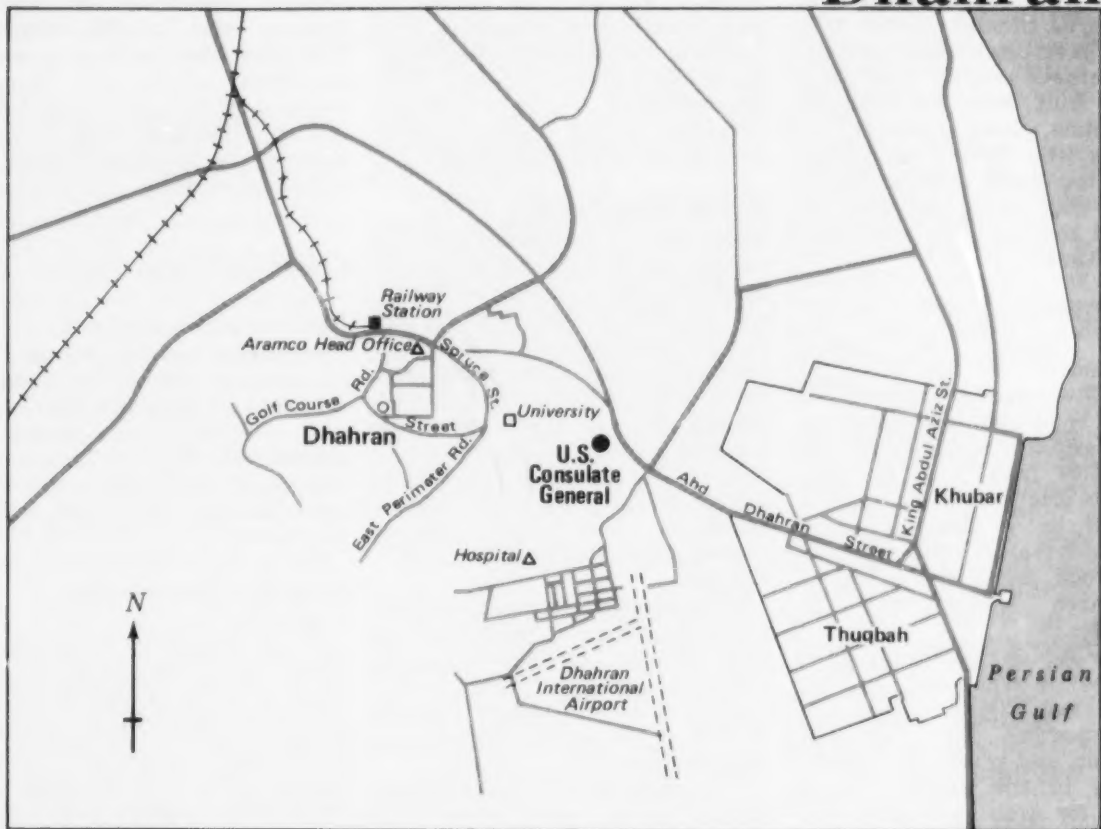
Nature of Functions

Most official entertaining by Saudi Government officials and diplomats of other Arab nations is restricted to men. Nevertheless, official and semiofficial social life is open to all personnel. Informal dinners and receptions are the most common functions.

Standards of Social Conduct

Officers should bring about 200 calling cards. Informals are convenient. There is little occasion to use cards other than informals. Include calling cards with personal luggage, since you will need them on arrival. Officers who make frequent business calls often have cards printed shortly after arrival, carrying both English and Arabic names and information such as the Consulate General telephone number. Local printing is satisfactory but expensive.

Dhahran



5102 7-83 STATE(GE)

Consulate General

Dhahran

Dhahran is on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula about 280 miles from Riyadh, the capital, and about 1,000 miles from Jeddah.

The word "Dhahran" is an Arabic word meaning "two hills." It originally referred to a geological formation sighted from Bahrain Island in 1932, which looked promising for oil exploration. At this formation the first producing oil well, number 7, was discovered in 1938. It is still producing oil today. This site also housed a permanent camp which later became the site for the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco).

The main Aramco compound has many of the characteristics of a prosperous community in the Southwestern U.S., with an American population of about 7,500. Originally, Dhahran referred only to the community established by Aramco on the site of its first oil well. In current usage, Dhahran now refers to the Consulate General, Aramco, University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran International Airport, Offices of the Ministry of Petroleum and Petromin, and the SAG petroleum distribution organization. Bear in mind, however, that Dhahran is neither a community, a town, or a population center; rather, it is a geographic area containing a scattered collection of self-contained compounds.

The Consulate General is 7 miles from the nearest Arab city, Al-Khobar, and about 11 miles from the city of Dammam, since 1953 the capital of the Eastern Province, Al-Hasa. Dammam has a population of about 240,000; Al-Khobar has 180,000.

Most American and European families live in separate compounds

and individual residences scattered throughout the entire Dhahran area and the cities of Al-Khobar and Dammam.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General has five sections: Political/Economic, Economic/Commercial, Consular, Administrative, and the U.S. Information Service (USIS). Office hours are from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, Saturday through Wednesday.

The Consulate General is the only official full-time foreign government establishment in the Eastern Province. It is a self-contained compound of some 69 acres about midway between Aramco and the International Airport. The University of Petroleum and Minerals campus is between Aramco and the Consulate General. The USMTM headquarters are at Dhahran International Airport.

Each employee will be met at the airport, if the post is advised in advance. Otherwise call the Consulate General at 891-3200. It is staffed 24 hours daily by Marine Guards. Taxis are available if necessary. Fares must be negotiated with each taxi driver and is about SR 50 from the airport to the Consulate General. Establish the fare in advance and have exact change. Unescorted women should not use a taxi for transportation from the airport.

Housing

Permanent Housing

Housing for most U.S. Government employees and dependents, including some Foreign Service nationals, exists within the compound. The post provides some of its own cen-

tral services including tapwater, which is highly saline, and sewage disposal. Drinking water is supplied to each house, in containers, several times a week.

The post has outgrown its compound and at present four officers must be housed off-compound. Severe social restrictions on women in Saudi Arabia, which include an absolute prohibition on driving, has led the post's housing committee to develop a housing policy which gives families and single women preference in the competition for scarce on-compound housing. This policy, and the Mission requirements, may, on occasion, require other officers to make the sacrifice of a mid-tour move to other housing.

The principal officer's residence has a large living room, enclosed patio, dining room, study, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, kitchen, utility room, and servants rooms on the first floor and a 2-room suite consisting of a sitting room, bedroom, and bath; enclosed porch; and open terrace on the second floor. A one-car garage is attached.

Housing for Agency and section chiefs is 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 or 2½ baths, large combination living-dining room area, den, sunporch, kitchen, servants quarters, and utility room.

Staff houses are either Crawford prefab or stone houses, with 2 or 3 bedrooms, combination living-dining room, 1 or 2 baths, and kitchen. Both staff and senior officer residences are an easy walk from the Consulate General.

At present, the U.S. Government leases five off-compound houses. Each has at least 3 bedrooms. Although some of the floor plans may seem strange to Americans, the post selects those best suited to American needs from those available. As these leases change from time to time, it is difficult to be more specific.

Furnishings

Quarters have central air-conditioning and heating or window air-conditioners and are equipped with gas stove, electric refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, dishwasher, ironing board, and vacuum cleaner. All quarters are completely furnished. For new arrivals, houses are equipped with a Welcome Kit which includes pots, pans, dishes, linens, and an iron. Newly assigned personnel should include in their airfreight a minimum supply of linens, kitchenware, and other items (e.g., toys for children) they may need during the first few months at post, though some of the items can be purchased at the USMTM PX.

Household effects take 1 or 2 months to arrive if shipped from the U.S. Questions concerning shipments should be addressed to the administrative officer. Normally APO surface shipments from the U.S. take 6 to 8 weeks while airfreight may take 3 to 5 weeks. Whatever the method of shipment, take particular care that items are well packed. Smaller parcels receive rough handling, and breakage has occurred because of poor packing.

Utilities and Equipment

Electricity is 120v, 60Hz, AC and is supplied by the local commercial power company. All 110v, 60Hz appliances can be operated; 220v, 50/60Hz appliances require transformers, which the Consulate General does not supply. Each house has a telephone tied into the Saudi Arabian telephone system. The post occasionally finds it necessary to lease an off-compound house without telephone service, as new housing construction has outpaced the telephone system.

Food

The post has access to a U.S. military commissary, located at the USMTM site at Dhahran International Airport. Sundry items and fresh foods from this outlet are adequate but limited in quantity. Food available on the local market is seasonal, limited in variety, and expensive as most foodstuffs must be imported. Frozen

meats and vegetables are available and American-type food items can be found. These items usually cost twice the U.S. price.

Clothing

Clothing is available in limited supply on the local market. Merchants in both Al-Khobar and Dammam sell clothing from the U.S., Europe, and Asia. American clothing costs about twice as much as in the U.S. Shirts, lightweight suits, sweaters, and ties can be found for men. Women may purchase stockings, lingerie, bathing suits, novelty, sports and lounging garments, blouses, and dresses. It cannot be overemphasized, however, that clothing supplies, both for men and women, are not constant nor available in all sizes, and that prices are high. Most post personnel use U.S. mail-order houses for their clothing purchases. The U.S. Military PX, also located at Dhahran International Airport, now stocks a limited supply of clothing.

Men. Lightweight clothing is suitable most of the year. Sportswear and business suits are acceptable at all times. Cotton or synthetic fabrics are most practical.

Standard summer wear for social occasions is a short-sleeved shirt, tie, and slacks or summer-weight suits. Cool, lightweight walking shoes with rubber soles are a must in Saudi Arabia. Also, bring sandals, they will allow the air to circulate better around your feet. From November to April medium-weight suits are worn. If you plan leave or R&R, bring clothing suitable for the area you wish to visit. On rare occasions, formal attire—dinner jacket—is required, but dark suits may be worn in lieu of formal attire. The principal officer and other senior officers need formal wear. Others can do without, but if you already own formal attire, bring it.

Women. Women should wear nonrevealing loose clothes. Long caftans are common and

comfortable in this climate. While some women find synthetic fabrics too warm, others consider them most practical for air-conditioned living, especially adaptable to contrasting indoor-outdoor temperatures found at post. A good supply of sandals is important, and head scarves and sun hats are desirable.

Entertaining at home requires a selection of cocktail dresses and an evening dress for the few formal occasions. Few days are cool enough to wear wool clothing comfortably all day. Heavy and dark cottons or lightweight knits are most suitable for daytime winter wear. It turns cooler in the evening in winter and woolen dresses, cotton knits, and silks are worn just as in the U.S. A winter coat is not essential, but an "in-between" coat is useful as are sweaters and cardigans. For leave and R&R purposes, bring a limited amount of heavier winter clothing.

Saudi Arabian religious and social customs prescribe the veiling of women, therefore, Western women should dress conservatively when shopping at local markets or visiting Al-Khobar and Dammam. At a minimum, dresses should have some type of sleeve and be mid-length or below. A long-sleeved, floor-length, cotton shirtwaist-type dress is worn by many Western women when shopping in these cities. Other women find slacks covered by loose thigh-length, long-sleeved tops to be the most comfortable and safest type of attire for visiting local markets and shopping areas. Tight-fitting dresses and slacks, miniskirts, and shorts cannot be worn in public places. One will find, however, that for compound living and social contact with the Western community, women can be guided by the usual styles of clothing worn in the U.S., as well as the latest fashions.

Children. Clothing for children is governed largely by the climate of hot summers and mild winters. Light- to medium-heavy woolen clothing for outdoor wear is needed when winter winds turn chilly and temperatures sometimes drop to near freezing at night. A medium-weight jacket or windbreaker will

be used often during cooler months. As prices are high and a full range of children's sizes is particularly difficult to find locally, bring as much children's clothing, including shoes, as possible to post.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Standard toiletries, cosmetics, cigarettes, and tobacco are sold in Al-Khobar. Ordinary detergents, packaged water softeners, and household cleaning equipment and supplies can be bought locally.

Both men and women can buy a variety of fabrics in Al-Khobar or Dammam. Tailors in Al-Khobar, Dammam, and Bahrain make men's suits, sports jackets, topcoats, and ladies' dresses, suits, etc. They are adept at copying garments, although there is a wait of 3 to 4 weeks.

Shoe repair is fair-to-good for men's shoes but poor for women's. Two commercial laundries are now available; these provide adequate service, as do local drycleaners.

Barber shops are available both in Al-Khobar and at the USMTM Officers/NCO Club located at Dhahran International Airport. A good beauty shop is also available at the USMTM Officer/NCO Club. Most hairdressers work in their homes because beauty shops are not normally accepted businesses in Saudi Arabia.

Domestic Help

The cost of a full-time cook is about \$300 per month; houseboys usually work for \$4 per hour; however, demand is such that they are almost unavailable at any price. Although most personnel cannot afford or find full-time help, some people at post do employ a houseboy for a few hours a week. Family houses are large and sandstorms make housekeeping difficult. Families requiring live-in help should consider looking outside of Saudi Arabia and sponsoring a servant's entry into the country. Single personnel find, without a private or shared servant, that a good portion of their leisure time is spent housekeeping and shopping.

Most domestic helpers are men; most commonly they are Eritreans, Somalis, Indians, Pakistanis, Sudanese, and Yemenis. Saudi Arabians do not work as servants. Arrangement for vacations or extra pay in lieu of vacations are the employer's responsibility. The sponsor must also assume costs of medical care, clothing, and return transportation for domestic help hired outside the area.

Religious Activities

Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country, and Islam is the only religion permitted. However, lay services are conducted to meet the religious needs of the Western community but do involve an element of risk.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. The Dhahran Academy, under the auspices of the Saudi Arabian International School System, is an American overseas school aided by the Department's Office of Overseas Schools. It operates on the Consulate General compound and provides schooling for children from kindergarten through grade 9. It is the only English-language based school available locally to children of the Consulate General and non-Aramco Western communities. Present enrollment is in excess of 1,500 children, representing a minimum of 37 nationalities.

Away From Post. High school children must be sent to boarding schools outside Saudi Arabia. Numerous high schools that provide adequate education are available in Europe, and parents should compare these schools with those in the U.S. before deciding where to send their children for high school. The Office of Overseas Schools, located in the State Department, can provide assistance in enrolling students in schools located in Europe.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Swimming, boating, and picnicking are possible at three good beaches on the Arabian Gulf, all within a 1-hour drive of the compound. Fishing is generally good. Enthusiasts should bring skindiving, waterskiing, and fishing gear. According to your preference, bring rackets, bowling shoes, golf clubs (preferably old ones as the sand takes its toll), fishing tackle, and beach and picnic equipment. Camping is also popular.

A tennis court and swimming pool are located on the compound. Tennis courts are open by invitation at Aramco, the Airfield, the University of Petroleum and Minerals, and at the Northrop Corporation Recreation Center. Aramco has bowling alleys. Racquetball and squash are growing in popularity and may be played at USMTM or Aramco. Usual sports attire is worn, but women cannot wear shorts or extreme sunback dresses in public.

Access to and from these facilities is limited for women as they are **not** permitted to operate motor vehicles in Saudi Arabia and the Consulate General does not have the extra vehicles to provide convenient shuttle services.

Photography is popular, although there are definite local sensitivities about what can be photographed. Photographs should not be taken off-compound before seeking guidelines. Film is available at the USMTM PX and in Al-Khobar. Most personnel find processing via film mailer envelopes most convenient. Even though local processing is available, unauthorized photos will be confiscated.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Hofuf, an ancient Arab town in one of the world's largest oases, is 2 hours away. Qatif, about 20 miles from the Consulate General, provides an interesting change of scenery for an afternoon's drive.

The Dhahran Outing Group (DOG) from Aramco organizes frequent excursions to places of interest within Saudi Arabia, and to nearby tourist attractions. Bahrain Island is also available for shopping and relaxation, however, hotel rates are high. Consulate General employees can also use MAC and USMTM military aircraft on a standby, space-available basis to travel to nearby Middle East countries and Europe.

Entertainment

Entertainment in Dhahran includes movies at USMTM and Aramco and an occasional stage play by local talent. The Aramco Dramatic Groups of Dhahran and Abqaiq put on two or three performances a year. Consulate General personnel are invited to audition for these productions.

Two American-style restaurants in the area are the dining hall (cafeteria and snack bar) at Aramco and the Mission Inn (USMTM/NCO Club). A surcharge is added at both places. No nightclubs exist. Local restaurants in the area provide Oriental, Middle Eastern, and continental meals. Menus are limited, and prices for a modest lunch or dinner are expensive, even by international standards.

Radios, TV's, and record players provide other sources of entertainment. Excellent stereo components, tape recorders, and TV's are available in Al-Khobar, as well as in the PX at USMTM.

Aramco provides four FM radio stations which play a variety of music. Aramco also has a TV station which presents American TV programs, including "Sesame Street," and cartoons for the children. The station broadcasts for about 7 hours a day, beginning at 3:30 pm. American TV's cannot be used. European (PAL TV system) sets will receive Aramco, plus other stations from Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, and Dammam. One English channel is available on Saudi TV. Programing is international with some dated U.S. programing included.

Social Activities

Among Americans. Social life can be as active as you wish. Only the consul general and senior officers have many obligatory responsibilities. Most social functions are open to Consulate General personnel of all ranks. Informal dances and bridge are among the more popular activities.

A growing number of Americans and Europeans now live in the Dhahran area, chiefly in oil or oil-related occupations and as business or technical advisers. About 16,000 Americans, 5,000 Britons, and somewhat smaller communities of Germans, Dutch, Italians, French, and Belgians live in the Eastern Province.

Officers soon meet their counterparts among Aramco personnel through office calls and at social gatherings. Social calling among wives is informal.

International Contacts. Newly arrived officers meet local Arab officials at a variety of social events and are often invited to Arab dinners customarily given for distinguished visitors. Women do not attend these official functions. On principal Muslim and American holidays, calls are exchanged among the men.

Official Functions

Dinners and receptions are the most common functions. Dress is usually informal. Official Saudi entertaining normally is restricted to men. Officers should bring about 100 calling cards. Informals are useful. Printing is available locally for Arabic and English calling cards.

Special Information

Owning a vehicle is considered necessary in Dhahran to lead anything approximating a normal social and recreational life. Public transport suitable for diplomatic personnel does not exist and, as a result of the Saudi Arabian Government's absolute prohibition against women driving, women

assigned to post have a high priority on the use of available U.S. Government vehicles and drivers. Five officers must be housed off-compound at present, and without a personal vehicle they would be almost immobilized.

When purchasing or preparing a vehicle to bring to post, bear in mind that collision insurance is expensive, and its cost is directly related to the replacement cost of the vehicle. Some employees feel that the best course is to import a vehicle of nominal value and not insure the replacement value. Make sure that there are no worn parts in your suspension and steering, as bad roads take a heavy toll.

With the price of gas at 30¢ per U.S. gallon, you can import a large American sedan with a V-8 engine. You will feel more secure in Saudi traffic.

Many items, including some books and magazines, alcohol, religious articles, food, and items on the Arab boycott list, are considered contraband and are banned in Saudi Arabia. Check those items currently banned before departing for post. Do not attempt to bring any of those items through the airport either on your person or in your baggage. At the least, you risk their confiscation; at worse, serious legal complications might ensue.

The administrative officer at post must make advance arrangements for the import of pets since pets are not generally permitted in Saudi Arabia. If you anticipate bringing pets to post, notify the administrative officer well in advance.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Employment for dependents is difficult in the Dhahran area, especially for women, due to enforcement of Saudi labor laws. Limited employment opportunities exist for dependents as teachers and secretaries. Write the administrative officer prior to arrival at post for further information.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Personnel usually fly to Saudi Arabia. The international airports in Saudi Arabia are King Abdul Aziz International Airport, Jeddah; King Khaled International Airport, Riyadh; and Dhahran International Airport, Dhahran. These airports serve a large number of international airlines besides Saudia, the state-owned airline. Nonstop flights from New York to Jeddah or Dhahran take 13-14 hours. Newcomers are met at the airport.

Address surface shipments for Riyadh:

American Embassy, Riyadh
(Owner's Initials)
Port of Discharge: Dammam
Saudi Arabia
Consign to: Riyadh Dry Port
Contact No. 464-0012

Mark airfreight shipments to Riyadh:

American Ambassador
American Embassy, Riyadh
(Owner's Initials)
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Contact No. 464-0012

(Note: New telephone contact will be assigned on/about May 1986)

Mark shipments to Jeddah:

American Consul General
(Owner's Initials)
American Consulate General
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Contact No. 667-0080

Send ocean bills of lading for surface shipments to employee's post of assignment: Riyadh, Jeddah, or Dhahran.

Address air shipments to Dhahran:

American Consul General
(Owner's Initials)
American Consulate General
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Contact No. 891-3200

Send a copy of the airway bill to the Consulate General well in

advance or notify by telegram to clear the shipment. You can ship goods in footlockers and cardboard boxes provided they are well wrapped or steel banded.

Address ocean shipments to Dhahran:

American Consul General
(Owner's Initials)
American Consulate General
Dammam Seaport
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Contact No. 891-3200

Shipping documents, e.g., bills of lading, packing list, etc., must show: weight of shipment; number of packages/cases/boxes; shipping port; and estimated value of shipment.

This information is required to clear the shipment without paying customs duty. Shipments for Dhahran are off-loaded at the Dammam pier and loaded onto Consulate General trucks for delivery by Consulate General employees. Airfreight must be steelbanded for shipment to Jeddah, Dhahran, and Riyadh. Rarely is theft a problem after arrival in Saudi Arabia but proper packing with steelstrapping will limit any pilferage.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

Personnel with diplomatic titles enjoy duty-free entry privileges during their entire assignment. Nondiplomatic personnel are allowed 6 months' duty-free entry of effects and may import an auto duty free. Nondiplomatic personnel may have their personal effects shipments opened and inspected, but this has not been done routinely.

Send bills of lading for household and personal effects to the Embassy so customs clearance can be applied for in advance. Local shipping agents rarely notify the Embassy of the arrival or expected ar-

rival of personal shipments, and clearance can often be time consuming.

Importing pork products and alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited.

Musical instruments can be included in your household effects.

Passage

Personnel should have current entry visas and immunization certificates.

Pets

Since 1977, pets have not been allowed into Saudi Arabia. The Embassy and/or Consulates General, however, can request permission for an exemption to this restriction from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs for any pets belonging to U.S. Government personnel. Such permission must be obtained prior to an employee's arrival in Saudi Arabia. Advise the Embassy or Consulates General, well in advance, of any pets you wish to bring. A valid rabies vaccination, distemper booster, and current certificate of good health (attested by the Saudi Arabian Embassy) are required for any pet. Send a copy of the certificate with the animal as well as a copy to the Embassy, c/o General Services.

For pets already in Saudi Arabia, Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam now have qualified veterinarians to provide examinations, immunizations, and most surgical procedures.

Firearms and Ammunition

Importation of firearms and ammunition and crossbows is illegal in Saudi Arabia.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The Saudi Arabian monetary unit is the riyal (SR) which is divided into 100 halalahs. Notes are in 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 riyal denominations. Coins are in 5, 10, 25, and 50 halalah denominations. The riyal is quoted in dollars but based on Special Drawing Rights (SDR). As the SDR/dollar rate varies, so the official riyal/dollar rate is revalued at intervals to keep within a narrow band around U.S.\$1=SR 3.65.

The riyal is readily convertible and is one of the world's most stable currencies. Most foreign currencies can be converted against it. Commercial banks are located in all the big cities and money changers throughout Saudi Arabia deal in foreign currencies and offer other banking transactions.

Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran have a number of banks that were formerly foreign banks but which have now been converted into joint-stock companies with majority ownership by Saudi interests, i.e., Citibank has a minority interest in the Saudi-American Bank.

Saudi Arabia is still a cash-oriented society although acceptance of checks or major credit cards is growing. Most Foreign Service employees, however, prefer direct deposit and maintain checking accounts with their U.S. banks.

The metric system is the official standard of measurement, although older Arab weights and measures are often still used. Saudis use the Muslim lunar calendar, consequently, exact dates of official local holidays change each year.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Restrictions

Restrictions on the sale of personal property are few. Customs duties must be paid on cars (7%) and other items subject to duty at the time of

sale if they were brought into the country duty free and are being sold to persons without duty-free privileges.

The Embassy is continuing its efforts to have the boycott of American goods rescinded, but there is no guarantee that the Government of Saudi Arabia will allow items which appear on the boycott list to be imported into the country. Accordingly, to avoid personal inconvenience, hardship, and the possibility of charges being billed to individual employees, persons assigned to Saudi Arabia should be aware that American Motors, AMC, and RCA products appear on the boycott list, and they cannot be imported at this time.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

There are many more current books, not listed, which are officially banned in Saudi Arabia.

Alireza, Marianne. *At the Drop of a Veil*. Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1971.

Amin, Mohammed. *Pilgrimage to Mecca*. MacDonald and Jones: London, 1978.

Arabian American Oil Company, ARAMCO and Its World. Library of Congress, #80-67897, 1980.

Armstrong, H. C. *Lord of Arabia*. Khayats: Beirut, 1966.

Beling, W. A. *King Faisal and the Modernization of Saudi Arabia*. Boulder, Colorado and London, 1980.

Blunt, Lady Anne. *A Pilgrimage to the Nejd*. Frank Cass: London, 1968 (reprint).

Gaith, Abdul Hakim. *The Marching Caravan, The Story of Modern Saudi Arabia*. Jeddah, 1967.

de Gaury, Gerald. *Faisal, King of Saudi Arabia*. Barker: London, 1966.

Gray, Seymore. *Beyond the Veil*. Harper & Row: New York, 1983.

Holden/Johns. *House of Saud*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston; New York, 1981.

An Introduction to Saudi Arabian Antiquities. Dept. of Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education, 1395 A.H.-1975 A.D.

Lacey, Robert. *The Kingdom, The House of Saud*. Saudi Arabia in the 1980s. Harcourt, Brace, Janonovich; New York, 1981.

Leading Merchant Families of Saudi Arabia. State Mutual: New York, 1980.

Raban, Jonathan. *Arabia, A Journey Through the Labyrinth*. Simon & Shuster: New York, 1979.

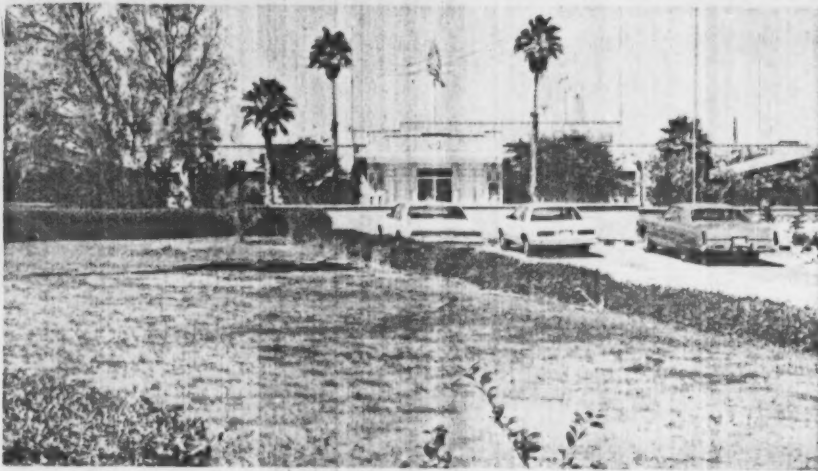
Vincent, Betty A. and F.W. Classey. *Wild Flowers of Central Saudi Arabia*. London, 1977.

Wahba, Shaikh Hafiz. *Arabian Days*. Barker: London, 1964.

Winder, R. Bayly. *Saudi Arabia in the 19th Century*. St. Martins Press: New York, 1964.

Local Holidays

In addition to the 10 American holidays observed worldwide, the Embassy and Consulates General observe two Saudi Arabian holidays. These are the Id al-Fitr—the breaking of the fast of Ramadan and the Id al-Adha—the celebration at the end of the pilgrimage or Hajj season. Both are religious observances and their dates vary according to the lunar calendar. At present, Id al-Fitr occurs in June and Id al-Adha occurs in August. Although the Saudi Government recesses for about 2 weeks for each holiday, the Embassy recess is limited to 3-5 days. Services such as taxis, hotels, and restaurants remain open so that the traveler to Saudi Arabia is not inconvenienced during these periods.



From top to bottom: Consulate General,
consul general's residence, and
staff housing.

